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United Arab Emirates-Iran

Talks on the status of Abu Musa Island began in Abu Dhabi following the arrival of the Iranian negotiating team on 26 September, AFP reported. IRNA noted that a source close to the talks termed the first round "fruitful." During the second round, the UAE side presented a "memorandum" stating its views on the dispute over all three Gulf Islands, according to Abu Dhabi radio. AFP subsequently noted that the second round of talks was suspended after the Iranian team requested a "break" so that it could consult Tehran on the issue of the Tunb islands. Meanwhile, an unidentified UAE official "ruled out any compromise" over the three islands. "There is no return to the status quo on Abu Musa," the UAE official stressed.

Iraq

UN inspectors found "chemical weapons and ammunition" that "should have been transferred to a common site" for destruction, AFP reported on 26 September, citing team leader Bernhard Brunner of Switzerland. The weapons were found at two "declared sites" some 37 miles from Baghdad. Brunner noted that there was "no problem" when the Iraqi authorities were instructed to move the material to the destruction site at al-Muthana.

Following a five-day meeting in Irbil, Iraqi opposition groups issued a "final statement" stressing the need for unity aimed at "toppling the tyrant dictatorship regime" and "establishing a parliamentary pluralistic rule." Mas'ud Barzani commented that "an expanded meeting for the opposition would be held within a month," the clandestine Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan reported, adding that two draft resolutions on the future of Iraq and the Kurds were still under discussion.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Warns Against 'Camp David' With Syria

NC2609155292 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT 26 Sep 92

['Arafat Fears Separate Israeli-Syrian Peace"—AFP headline]

[Text] Paris, Sept 26 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has voiced concern that Israel could secure a separate peace with Syria at the expense of the Palestinians.

In an interview published Saturday by the French daily LE MONDE, 'Arafat charged that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had pledged during his election campaign to "make peace with the Arabs, namely the Palestinians."

But now, said the Palestine Liberation Organisation chief, Rabin is "considering peace with the Syrians."

"They are about to repeat Camp David," he said in reference to the 1978 U.S.-brokered Israeli-Egyptian accords which led one year later to the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, denounced by Syria and the Arabs.

'Arafat said the PLO—which instructs a Palestinian delegation in peace talks with Israel—was determined to pursue the negotiations for self-rule on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Until now the position of the Palestinian leadership is that the negotiations continue," 'Arafat said, adding that the PLO's central council would meet in October to examine the situation.

The seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace talks is to resume October 21 in Washington, where the previous round closed last Thursday with the Syrians reporting progress and the Palestinians a deadlock in the negotiations.

FRC Criticizes Trial of Palestinians

NC2809100392 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 26 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] We have received from Fatah—the Revolutionary Council [FRC] the following clarification on the trial of Palestinians in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp two days ago:

1. The court panel is a group of employees of Fatah—the Central Committee who do not have the necessary qualifications for the job.

2. The PLO has no judiciary branch.

3. Such an act is regarded as extorting every Palestinian citizen and faction; ignoring it will set a bad and impermissible precedent.

4. This measure is a deliberate attempt to hamper the mission of the delegation entrusted to negotiate with the Lebanese Government on the Palestinian citizens' rights in Lebanon.

5. We assert before all the people and those concerned with justice that the accused are Palestinian citizens who were subjected to severe torture. False statements have been extracted from them about crimes they did not commit. These forged confessions aim to conceal the real criminals within the context of obvious internal conflicts.

6. We assert that the ones whose names were mentioned have no connection with FRC and that involving our movement serves distortion, deception, and sedition.

7. This behavior confirms that the PLO chairman is reckless about people's lives and engaged only in primitive justice.

Al-Quds Radio Urges 'Abd-al-Shafi to Resign

JN2609095892 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Sep 92

["Al-Quds Talk" carried within the "And We Also Have A Word To Say" program prepared and read by "the general supervisor" of al-Quds Radio]

[Text] When the 10 Palestinian forces issued their statement, the London Arabic radio, which recently showed suspicious concern about the Palestine question, contacted chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. Asked his opinion on the statement, he said that he is for a referendum and that he and his delegation members say the same thing in their seminars and lectures. Despite our respect for Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, he is confusing things in this statement. So, we want to discuss Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's statement and comment on the statement of the 10 Palestinian forces.

We know that Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi is in Washington now; therefore, we hope that his sons will record this talk. We also know that some of his sons have boycotted their father since he became the chief delegate. We also know more than this. However, we refrain from discussing personal things.

First, we stress that we base our discussion on the remainder of respect for his personality, his past, and his history. Furthermore, our discussion simply aims to show the dangers resulting from his continuation with this task which is rejected by his friends and those who respect him and know his history.

We are saying this so that he will not be subject to blackmail by others who would give him the impression that he is no longer as accepted in the national ranks as he always was.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that he supports a referendum and that he as well as his delegation members meet with people at lectures. Let us dwell on the first part of

'Abd-al-Shafi's statement and ask: Which referendum do you want? Do you want a referendum for our people in the West Bank and Gaza? Or, do you want a referendum for all Palestinians in the homeland and the diaspora? Do you want a referendum throughout the homeland or in part of it?

Our answer is the following: Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi has mixed the seminars and lectures with the concept of referendum. Therefore, his answers will be within this context, or in the direction which could protect his present ideas as a chief delegate. A judgment between our opinion and that of Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, however, was expressed by our Palestinian Arab people in a brave, unprecedented stand when they staged a general strike wherever they are—deep inside Palestine, in the West Bank and Gaza, in all Lebanon and Syria refugees camps, and partly in Jordan camps. We wonder if Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi considers this a voluntary referendum without pressure or interference.

The news of the general strike on Wednesday, 23 September, reached the negotiating delegation in Washington and hardened the position of the Palestinian delegates at the negotiating table. Therefore, the results of the strike/referendum have reached Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi. The message of the Palestinian masses everywhere and the very high percentage of those who responded to the strike/referendum should have prompted Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi to resign from his post which shelters many suspects. Instead, Dr. 'Abd-al- Shafi turned a deaf ear to this, and we believe, he will postpone the discussion for another time.

We would like to ask Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi if he has heard about former Egyptian Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi, who resigned when al-Sadat announced the first capitulatory step. We would also like to ask him if he has heard about al-Sadat's Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, who succeeded Isma'il Fahmi and who resigned in Camp David one day before the signing of the Camp David accords. Isma'il Fahmi and Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will always remain symbols of bravery and courageous stands, despite the fact that their stands were personal.

O Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, you are addressed by all the Palestinian masses, who staged a general strike last Wednesday. Foreign news agencies described this strike as the largest and most effective.

You said that you will respect the masses' opinion. Well, the masses have stated their opinion, not only in the West Bank and Gaza, but also in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and everywhere. Even London radio, which conducted the interview—despite its distortion attempts—began its report on the strike by saying that thousands of Palestinians have staged strikes everywhere in the Middle East. This is the referendum. Why do we not accept the result?

Ask the kinsfolk in Gaza, and in the entire strip which was paralyzed by the strike/referendum; ask the people in Gaza and in your house. They will certainly, certainly, describe the Palestinian people's anger about the negotiations for liquidation.

We address you because we know your history and present record; we do not believe that you are less brave than Isma'il Fahmi or Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. We, however, can exclude two or three of the other members of the negotiation delegation. After the strike/referendum of last Wednesday, we cannot allow things to proceed as before. For example, we cannot allow Faysal al-Husayni to lead the commemorative celebration in honor of martyr 'Akkawi or to be welcomed by a reconciliation delegation. We cannot allow concessions by Faysal al-Husayni or from any other delegates. What comes after the strike/referendum is different than was before it. Things will be different after the day of the strike/referendum.

Our talk is addressed to you, O Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi. Everybody, everybody is waiting 'Abd-al-Shafi. Have you received the message?

'Abd-Rabbuh Criticizes Rabin's Confederation Idea

NC2809104792 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Replying to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to set up a tripartite confederation between Jordan, the Palestinian territories, and Israel, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh warned that Israel is seeking to extend its hegemony to Jordan.

In an interview with AL-NAHAR published today, he said: We should tell Israel very clearly that everything concerning Jordanian-Palestinian relations is agreed on, that this is none of its affair, and that it has no right to interfere. He added: The Israelis want to be a partner in formulating Jordan's relations with Palestine during the transitional and final phases so that their hegemony and influence will include the occupied territories and Jordan.

Algeria

Government Program for Development Detailed

Obstacles to Development

LD2409171292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] [Announcer] All the main lines developed by the chairman of the Higher State Council [HSC] in his address to the nation fall within the strategy of the HSC which is in harmony with the government's program. This program was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in its recent meeting [on 19 September].

We have already presented a report on some aspects of Mr. Belaid Abdesselam's program, and we promised to develop the other main lines of this program. In tonight's news bulletin we are going to talk about the major obstacles which face the country and which the government's program has enumerated. This is something of a theoretical introduction which analyzes the various problems which face the development process in Algeria. Over to you Abdelkader Kherchi:

[Kherchi] There are numerous and various major structural obstacles and pressures facing Algeria. One of these pressures is the demographic growth of the population which has increased three fold since independence. This figure is likely to increase even further by the year 2000 to reach about 35 million people, in other words, an increase of 10 million in the next eight years. In contrast, the arable agricultural lands continue to shrink as a consequence of this demographic growth. Thus, only 3 percent of the overall agricultural land, which exceeds 7 million hectares, are exploited at present whereas 40 percent are left to lie fallow.

The industrial infrastructure has also been affected by disintegration and stagnation since 1980, and it has remained closely linked to the imported elements of production as a result of the suspension of the process of economic integration. It is common knowledge that national industrial production is insufficient both in terms of quantity, variety, and quality.

The structure of the foreign debt has also changed in a negative way as a result of the widespread use of short-term loans to import consumers goods. The revenues of our exports have thus been heavily mortgaged to service this debt. It is worth noting that the bodies guaranteeing the loans, and which are affiliated to some creditors, have now gone as far as to demand that Algeria mortgage its oil revenues with a bank of their choice as a guarantee for these loans even if we are talking about investment operations. This means that the sums due to Sonatrach in return for its sales [of oil and gas] do not automatically go to the coffers of the Algerian treasury when they are due to be paid.

The dogmatic and authoritarian restructuring of enterprises has led to the disintegration of the national means of production and execution, and of the services and to their fragmentation without leaving any framework for coordination.

There are other pressures, such as the continuous reductions in the value of the dinar, and the failure of the institutions to perform the role assigned to them by the state, such as the Contribution Funds and the Bank of Algeria; in other words, the intermediary bodies in charge of running the economy and trade. These institutions did not perform adequately the roles assigned to them. In addition, the administrative apparatus in the country cannot be considered an effective tool for the implementation of the state's policy because of poor management and lack of equipment. The public administration, such as the public productive sector, did not escape the acts of sabotage which were carried out under the guise of the successive restructuring operations. There is also the moral aspect of the matter, such as the phenomena of bribery and smuggling.

[Announcer] As for the second main line, it leads us to talk about the government's ideas on a series of fundamental data which support the government's strategy aimed at launching the development process. These data are summed up in Algeria's capabilities and its material and human potential. Over to you, Messaoud Benrabi:

[Benrabi] The government's program depends, in its visualization of the plan of action, on Algeria's data which it calls the country's capabilities. Human resources come at the top of the list, especially the 7 million educated youth. A large number of workers and senior executives also offer highly technical skills. The country can also benefit from the valuable contribution of the excellent cadres who were removed from their posts of responsibility whenever there was a change of government. In this main chapter, the government's plan also relies on Algerian woman, on Algerian immigrants who constitute a highly valuable ammunition, and on the large number of cadres who left the country as a result of their marginalization. According to the ideas put forward in the government's program, it is seems that putting all these active forces at the service of the nation has become a pressing matter.

If the program is largely interested in the human potential, it also refers to the other capabilities that are abundant in Algeria; namely, natural resources. There are enough resources to guarantee industrial development, such as gas, petroleum, condensate gas, iron, phosphate, zinc, and others, in addition to the capacity to produce real industries, despite the existing shortcomings. However, these could be improved through investments, the organization of work, management, training, and the promotion of the private sector.

Algeria also has huge capabilities for agricultural production and and once the problem of investment and the land issue are settled, production will start increasing. Algeria has also a potentially diversified tourist industry and a rich heritage which has not been exploited yet. The

other capabilities available to Algeria include a long experience in international trade and a diversification of partners, be they in exports or imports. The geopolitical gain from the natural facts [as heard] remains to Algeria's advantage in view of its belonging to several groupings; namely, the Arab Maghreb, the Arab world, the Mediterranean region, Africa, and its proximity to the big European markets.

Plan of Action

LD2409172992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] In our previous bulletin we presented to you some axes of the government's program which was endorsed recently. Today we present the second part of the program which includes the government's plan of action and the areas that need urgent attention.

As stated in its program, the main and principal task of the government is to put an end to the dreadful economic, cultural, and social decline that has had a direct effect on the society's unity and development, providing that the task is in line with the aspiration of overcoming our contradictions and rallying around clear and realistic objectives, without exceeding the limitations of the financial resources available now.

Under the circumstances, the policy of stringent austerity is imposed automatically as a solution without an alternative to put the economy right so that imports are brought down to their minimum level. For it to come to fruition, this measure has to coincide with a comprehensive mobilization of our inner capabilities by encouraging our enterprises, skilled workers and farmers with a view to achieving self-sufficiency before we turn to external markets. In this context the government insists on the need to stop importing products that compete with local products. The liberalization of external trade must be within the confines of the means of payment available after taking into account the priorities specified by the state to block the path of those who wish to use the country's hard currency resources to make a quick profit.

In the context of confronting terrorism and bribery, the government's policy points out a number of measures aimed at reassessing and consolidating legislative laws pertaining to the two fields. Two judicial bodies will be set up, the first of which will be concerned with terrorism and the second with bribery. It may become necessary to have diplomatic contacts with a view to holding investigations outside the homeland to eliminate the bribery file.

While these economic and social options are being implemented, there will be complete dependence on national solidarity. This means that all social groups will be invited to bear the costs of fairly putting the economy right. National solidarity will be demonstrated in the provision of all basic materials in all the regions of the country at the same price, support for the deprived groups, the adoption of strict taxation that would stop tax evasion.

On the other hand, the government intends to impose strict control over wealth amassed by speculation and quick enrichment by manipulating laws and evading taxes. It also intends to reassess the process of relinquishing state property in a way that would guarantee the cleansing of the social atmosphere in the country, creating the desired breakoff and regaining the credibility that is lacking.

Rebuilding the State: The restoration of the state's prestige, standing, and credibility necessarily depends on having an administration that has innovated, modernized, and outstanding structures; consolidating the continuity of public utilities and redefining the manner in which relations between the central and local administrations are organized so as to consolidate and protect the constituents of sovereignty and public authority, in view of the fact that they are elements of national integration and cohesion; reassessing the professional framework of public servants by favoring competence and merit in all cases. In this context, the judiciary must provide, through its composition and administration, effective assurances by a strict implementation of the law and the strengthening of the government's activity.

Activities of Mass Organizations: The government regards mass action as an appropriate framework for popular mobilization and participation in assuming responsibility for the problems of the society. Therefore, it will provide such action with the required support and help to carry out acts of public service that are undertaken. The government will encourage dialogue between all social sides and will motivate all the initiatives that prevent and settle work disputes. On the other hand, the government urges social partners to work with it to prepare a social contract at the national level that would facilitate the mobilization of the country's social forces and the undertaking of reconstruction.

Finally, the government sees fit to provide a legal basis for frameworks of consultation and dialogue, and for seeking harmony by establishing an economic and social council.

Social Priorities

LD2409182192 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Since the Council of Ministers approved the action program of Mr. Belaid Abdessalam 's government, we started to present readings of the various axes of this program. Tonight we continue a reading of the third part which contains the government urgent action priorities concerning the social field such as health, housing, and employment.

In the field of work and employment, the government action focuses on encouraging and supporting public and

private initiatives that ensure the creation of new jobs. The government program envisages this through reviving the activity of projects which are in the process of preparation and will be started shortly such as the programs of housing, roads, borders, and drinking water supply. It emphasized that in the field of services and traditional industries young cadres with vocational and university qualifications should be absorbed through financial assistance to help establish private institutions or cooperatives.

The problem of housing may be one of the biggest factors that threatens equilibrium inside the society. The answer which the government program provides is collective action; depending on the state as well as the initiatives of self-reliance and estate development. The state will provide its direct and indirect assistance to the beneficiaries of the constructed houses; as tenants or owners. This assistance will be individual and according to the income of the beneficiaries.

Concerning public projects, the decision to release the state from the obligation of building social housing is null and void, and the state will resume the study and execution of intensive housing projects and allocate them for rent ensuring their continuity. Housing project development, in all its forms, will be freed from all obstacles that hindered it in the beginning. The encouragement includes public and private investors alike with strict regulations to protect against speculation and to eliminate it.

Education and training: The government will act to discuss the problems relating to the educational apparatus from all aspects. Within this course a main program will be established capable of ensuring the ideological unity of the Algerian student. The best ways to promote the level of the national language will be examined to make it compatible with the scientific and technological advancement.

The basis for the government thinking in the field of health is to work toward discipline and strict rules concerning those employed in this sector, a departure from thrift and negligence. The main objective now is the provision of medicine and medical equipment especially in the hospitals. Measures will be taken relating to setting various exchange ratios for our national currency which may be coupled with other taxation measures to reduce the prices of medicines and other necessary components for medical and surgical treatment. Any deviation will be met with strict measures. This is part of a whole program policy to rationally control the population growth in connection with the traditions of our society.

The youth, a group which constitutes 70 percent of the Algerian population, are numerous yet the hopes the government places on them are even more numerous. This could only be done, according to the vision of the government, if we take this segment of the society to the shores of safety. This will be done by examining the means that reduce to the minimum the level of school negligence, protecting them from social evils by enabling them to enrol in suitable structures in the field of education and entertainment.

The government's short-term program for agriculture aims at ensuring stability for farmers by speeding up settlement of existing land disputes and supporting agricultural activity through a price policy and by providing modern production means and technology. With regard to the irrigation sector, there will be new measures for the utilization of all surface and underground water within the framework of a long-term program to take Algeria, within a period of less than 20 years, to achieving self-sufficiency and going for exportation.

To develop irrigation-based agriculture, new technologies will be used within a well-prepared and comprehensive program. Not forgetting desert agriculture, there will be a program aiming at reforming between 150,000 and 200,000 hectares by utilizing subterranean water.

Regarding the government's work in the religious sphere, since Islam is the state's religion, the spread of Islam comes under its purview. Accordingly, the state contributes to the building, running, and maintenance of places of worship, while doing its best to respect its duty to preserve these buildings and all other religious institutions. The state will make its contribution to the development of religious education which preserves our moral values and opens to our society scope for modernization.

Economic Priorities

LD2409222392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Among the most important axes of the government program is the government's pledge to face with all firmness the social problems which corrode the national economy so that the state can defend its authority and credibility and fully recover the latter, as stated in the second part of that program under the title: Axes of the government action. [passage omitted]

As far as the government program is concerned and after we have covered aspects of it, which dealt with drawing a picture of the current situation of the country and the prospects of reviving some sectors, we carry out this Thursday a quick reading of the economic field and the solutions which the government program conceived within the axe of actions of economic character. Nacera Ait Salah is here with details:

[Nacera] The state will intervene firmly in the field of providing hard currency and in a way that will ensure that companies of a strategic character, such as cement plants, increase their production. The government will also give a helping hand to the workers who have been forced to stop work temporarily.

The government program relies a lot on the resumption of investments in the various sectors of the economy but this depends on the country's overcoming the debt crisis.

While waiting for this, the government will make available the necessary means for achieving aims in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, and industry. It will prepare the major projects or implement them in order to achieve industrial infrastructure such as building major railway lines and roads. [passage omitted]

The state will reinforce the autonomy of action in public enterprises by revising the legal and organizational texts of 1988. It will be possible for the state to share the capital of public enterprises with national and foreign private operators, but by respecting a number of conditions such as:

The capital of the holding company should not be reduced to less than 51 percent.

National and foreign private capital will be permitted to have a share in the social capital with a percentage of more than 49 percent except for those concerning branches and associations set up for the exploitation of oil wells in which the public enterprises owning them must keep at least 51 percent.

Any enterprise, whether public or private, which suffers permanent losses or cannot pay its debts will be subjected to the procedure of legal liquidation.

The state will also revise the practice of wholesale trading. To get out of the debt crisis, the government proposes either rescheduling by (?granting extra time) or by guaranteeing the servicing of the debt.

Foreign Investment Program

LD2409175392 Algiers APS in English 1323 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Algiers, Sep. 23 (APS)—The government of Belaid Abdessalam defined, in its working program, the essential elements for the entry of foreign capital to Algeria not only in the frame of industrial partnership but also, for the first time, by the direct participation in the social capital of the non strategic companies. In coherence with its policy of relaunch of production and employment by means of encouragement of productive investment, the government wanted to supply the maximum of guarantees to foreign operators, who have been up till now sceptical about the idea of engaging their capitals in a country which they consider not only with political—and thus economic risks—but which also does not meet the required conditions in the field of economic legislation. In addition to laws in force on foreign investment, the executive decrees and the implementation texts of the great orientations of the government working program as well as the adoption of a code of foreign investments, will codify the external intervention in the capital of companies.

In this context, a total of 126 applications of wholesalers and authorized agents out of 238 were accepted by the Council of Credit and Currency. 55 authorized agents, 30 wholesale dealers and 41 investors were accepted for a global amount of projected investment of nearly 2 billion dollars and 6.3 billion dinars. Nearly 84 per cent of the amount of these investments are concentrated in three branches of activity: Mechanical industry, petrochemistry, chemistry and pharmaceutical industry. About 73 per cent of investors come from Europe with 3 countries: France, Italy and Spain. Relatively low shares are observed in a sole branch (automobile industry) with some countries such as U.S. and South Korea.

The objectives sought through the [word indistinct] of a new code of investments are the enlargement and the reinforcement of the industrial basis of the country, the effective transfer of technology, the improvement of techniques of management and production and the development and promotion of exports. The future code will certainly take in charge the new data of the internal and external economic environment so as to be adapted to the new world requirements. In this context and in order to encourage and protect foreign investors, Algeria adhered recently to two international conventions on the settlement of litigation and the guarantee of investments.

Gendarmes Arrest 14-Member Gang in Ghelizane

LD2409231592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] The National Gendarmerie recently arrested in the suburbs of the town of Ghelizane a 14-person gang after the gang had tried to set up an armed group and distributed leaflets calling for rebellion and harming state security. Sources close to the Ghelizane court, from where the report emanated, said that the gang members were brought before the military court in Oran last Saturday.

Egypt

President Mubarak Meets With 'Arafat 27 Sep

NC2709101592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with visiting Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in the Republican Palace in al-Qubbah this afternoon.

Syrian-Israeli Peace Talks Discussed

NC2709190692 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Report by MBC correspondent in Cairo Mu'tazz al-Dimirdash—recorded]

[Text] The bilateral two-hour meeting between Mr. 'Arafat and President Husni Mubarak came within the framework of continuing Palestinian-Egyptian discussions of the Middle East peace process after the sixth round of Arab-Israeli talks ended in Washington.

While neither the Palestinian nor the Egyptian side made any statements about the content of the talks, sources in

close contact with today's meetings told us there is Palestinian concern about the Israeli side's focus on establishing peace with Syria and abandoning the Palestinians. In contrast, when the new Rabin-led Israeli Government came to power there were fears that certain elements inside Israel might begin negotiations with the Palestinians at the expense of the other fronts.

Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal said any peace agreement between Syria and Israel hinges on signing a treaty. It will take approximately three years until such a treaty is formulated on the legal, political, economic, and security levels. He welcomed the application of the Egyptian example, as he said, in the negotiations process over the Golan Heights and the occupied Arab territories.

[Begin Kamal recording] We are now worried about Syria, just as Syria was worried about the Palestinians. I believe this is not a source of discord, as some agencies or sources interpret it to be. In fact, the opposite is true. After today's meeting with the president, there is complete interest in Syrian-Palestinian-Jordanian-Lebanese integration. The issue is one of schedule time [preceding two words in English], as long as there is commitment forced on Israel regarding the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. [end recording]

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt today comes at a time when the various parties of the Middle East peace talks are preparing for their seventh round of talks next month. It also comes at a time when reports spoke of a Palestinian concern regarding the possibility that Syria and Israel might sign a unilateral peace treaty.

U.S. Called on To Treat Israel as Iraq

LD2809012392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2217 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep, (MENA)—The paper AL-AHRAM praised Egypt's position at the conference of the International Agency for Nuclear Energy and its call for the need to submit the Israeli nuclear installations to the inspection and control of the UN agency.

In a commentary carried by its tomorrow [28 September] issue, the paper writes that Egypt held this position in harmony with the declared objectives of the new international order led by the United States, which declares thereby that its aim is to secure nuclear disarmament and to protect mankind from the danger of small states possessing nuclear weapons.

The United States, the paper further says, knows more than others the facts about Israel's possession of nuclear capabilities, and it has enough information about how dangerous this is to the security, stability, and safety of the region. The paper AL-AHRAM pointed out that the United States had moved with a forcefulness unprecedented in history to disarm Iraq of all its nuclear capabilities, whose danger is, by all criteria, limited in comparison with what Israel has in its possession.

At the conclusion of its commentary, the paper urges the United States to do the same with Israel and to join the Egyptian call. By so doing, Washington will affirm its credibility, and the international community will be reassured that its leadership of the world is founded on the (?principles) of justice. This would guarantee the existence of the new international order with the United States at its head.

Armenia To Open Embassy in Cairo

NC2509130092 Cairo MENA in English 1148 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, Sept 25 (MENA)—MENA learnt that Armenia will open an embassy in Cairo during the coming few days.

Armenia is one of the states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, (CIS) the former Soviet Union.

Al-Jihad Leaders Escape to Libya, Sudan

NC2609144492 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 25 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Musa]

[Excerpts] A responsible security source revealed that a group of prominent leaders of the al-Jihad organization [jama'at al-jihad al-Islami] escaped to Sudan and Libya, exploiting the facilities given to Egyptian and Libyan citizens who cross the al-Sallum border post. A number of the fugitives managed to use forged identification cards and documents for their escape. [passage omitted]

In statements to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, a ranking security source warned against the threat made by the Islamic Jihad that it will sabotage tourism in Egypt, particularly in Luxor. The source stressed that draconian measures will be adopted against anyone who tries to approach the tourist area. He added that all security forces are coordinating efforts to protect and guard the historic sites.

The security source noted that the hitherto unknown group [as published] has not been detected by the security authorities and could be new among the terrorist organizations. He pointed out that this organization is receiving assistance from abroad to undermine the Egyptian economy in the service of foreign countries.

Mauritania

Cape Verdian President Pays Visit

AB2109182592 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Cape Verdian President Antonio Monteiro Mascarenhas continues his visit here. This afternoon, he held private discussions with President Maaouiya Ould Taya. This was followed by another round of discussions, which included some members of the two delegations. The Cape Verdian side was represented by Mr.

Teofilo Figueiredo Silva, minister of infrastructure and transport [title as heard], and Mrs. Maria Helena Penedo, secretary of state for fisheries; and the Mauritanian side by Mr. (Mohamed Ould Lamar), minister of equipment and transport and head of the accompanying Mauritanian delegation, and Mr. Ahmed Ould Ghanahallah, minister of fisheries and maritime economy. Both discussions took place at the Presidency. The Mauritanian and Cape Verdian delegations also held a working session at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation on bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The Cape Verdian president's schedule for this first day of his visit will end with a dinner, which will be hosted this evening by the president of the Republic.

Upon his arrival this morning, President Mascarenhas talked about the purpose of his visit to our television colleague, Rasisi.

[Begin recording] [Mascarenhas] My feelings are those of joy and satisfaction, because I am greatly pleased and honored to step on Mauritanian soil for the first as president of the Republic of Cape Verde and at the invitation of His Excellency Ould Taya, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. I take this opportunity to extend to the Mauritanian people the fraternal greetings of the Cape Verdian people, who ardently wish for the intensification of the relations of friendship and South-South cooperation between our two countries.

[Rasisi] In this regard, Mr. President, what importance do you attach to this visit?
[Mascarenhas] I attach great importance to this visit. First, it is my first visit to Mauritania, and it is taking place at a very important moment. Because both in Cape Verde and Mauritania there have been significant political changes. Mauritania and Cape Verde opted for democracy, and our two countries have held free elections. Our two peoples have elected their representatives, and we have been given legitimate powers through the ballot box. I think all the conditions for restarting cooperation between our two countries have been met. As you know, Cape Verde and Mauritania have very good, indeed, excellent relations. We have even had the opportunity to embark on a very ambitious cooperation program that, unfortunately, ran into problems and was abandoned. I think this is the occasion to resume this cooperation, move ahead, and undertake joint projects. Well, I think we can do a lot together. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Speaks of Bilateral Cooperation

AB2309113092 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Excerpts] President Antonio Monteiro Mascarenhas of Cape Verde, who has been on a visit to our country since 20 September, returned to Nouakchott a short while ago from Nouadhibou, our economic capital, with Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker and the accompanying delegations present. At Nouadhibou, our illustrious guest, the prime minister, and the accompanying delegations visited the town's centers of interest. From Nouadhibou, our permanent correspondent Rimanande Olbiz reports:

[Begin recording] President Mascarenhas and the prime minister, accompanied by their respective delegations, visited (AMOSSO) [expansion unknown] Refrigeration Center, the Mauritanian Company for Cold Storage Warehousing, and the installations of the National Industrial and Mining Company-Joint Stock Company. [passage omitted]

About opportunities for strengthening bilateral cooperation, President Antonio Monteiro Mascarenhas stated that the two delegations are examining ways of identifying the various areas of cooperation that provide the best opportunity for boosting cooperation between the two countries, Mauritania and Cape Verde.

This visit enabled the Cape Verdian president to see the large-scale projects embarked upon by our country in line with efforts to strengthen its socioeconomic development in a context in which the two leaders of both countries defined the best strategies for consolidating democracy as a prerequisite for any kind of development; that is, political participation; free education; expression of different religions; and social systems far from exclusions and negative actions. The geographic location of each of the two countries are also among so many important factors that favor the strengthening of bilateral cooperation. Cape Verde is situated at a crossroad and plays a key role in international communications. [end recording]

Says Visit 'Fruitful,' Departs 22 Sep

AB2309122092 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The Cape Verdean head of state, President Antonio Monteiro Mascarenhas, left our country this afternoon after a three-day working and friendly visit to Mauritania. [passage omitted]

In the VIP Lounge, President Mascarenhas talked to our reporter, Alpha Ngajeh, about his visit to Mauritania:

[Begin recording] I am happy to say that my visit to Mauritania has been very fruitful, because it will enable both countries to strengthen friendly and cooperation relations. In addition to that aspect, I must say that I visited Nouadhibou yesterday, where I assessed the efforts made by the Mauritanian Government to promote progress and development in the country. I strongly believe that our two countries will have the opportunity to cooperate in various fields and that the conditions exist for fruitful cooperation between Cape Verde and Mauritania, and this is our hope. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Taya Meets With Saharan Foreign Minister 25 Sep

LD2609181792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya met with today the Western Saharan foreign minister, who handed him a message from President Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the POLISARIO [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro]. The foreign minister's visit falls within the framework of periodical consultation between the two presidents in light of recent developments in the region, a communique issued today by the Saharan Information Ministry read.

In a statement made following his talks with the Mauritanian president, the Saharan official referred to the strong relations between both peoples, reaffirming the importance of constant contacts with the Mauritanian leadership, and said that the contents of the message he handed to the Mauritanian president concerned discussion of the UN peace process and the special consultations for removing the obstacles to the UN peace plan.

Morocco

Hassan II Meets With UAE President Al Nuhayyan

JN1909103892 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Rabat—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], held a meeting with his brother His Majesty King Hassan II, the Moroccan monarch, at his majesty's al-Sukhayrat Palace.

A responsible source said that the meeting between the two leaders was held within the framework of a common desire to exchange viewpoints on issues that concern the Arab nation and the two sisterly countries.

The source added that discussions during the meeting focused on developments in the Arab arena and stressed support for the Arab march to realize Arab solidarity to preserve Arab rights and to confront international changes. The discussions also addressed current international and regional developments and their political effects on the countries of the region, and the peace efforts in the Middle East in light of the current negotiations in Washington.

The official source pointed out that the two leaders' talks also covered ways of bolstering relations of cooperation and solidarity between both brotherly peoples, which reflect the depth of fraternal bonds between the leaders of both countries.

His highness the president attended a dinner banquet hosted in his honor by his majesty the Moroccan monarch.

Filali Attends ICO Meeting at General Assembly

LD2609160492 Rabat MAP in English 1246 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] New York, Sept. 24 (MAP)—Moroccan State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali held side-meetings with heads of delegations attending the works of the 47th UN General Assembly.

Talks dealt with bilateral relations and the session agenda.

Filali also took part in the annual Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) Foreign Ministers Coordination Meeting which covered this year the issues of Palestine and holy Al Quds and developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Somalia and Afghanistan.

The state minister attended a work-luncheon hosted by Secretary General Butrus-Ghali which gathered all heads of delegations to the General Assembly 47th session.

Charter Signed With Tunisia, France, Spain, Italy

LD1809201892 Rabat MAP in English 1235 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Marseille, Sep. 18 (MAP)—Morocco, Tunisia, France, Spain and Italy signed Wednesday at the French pavilion at the Seville Expo-92 a charter destined to reinforce cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The charter is meant to energize cooperation between Mediterranean countries in economic and trade fields as well as in technology transfer to create more jobs and upgrade the standard of living of the region's peoples. The charter provides for the setting up of commissions to consider projects in economy, research, [word indistinct], training, transports, culture and other areas. The commissions will work under the umbrella of a Marseille-based technical coordination committee.

Transportation Agreement Discussed With EC

LD1809201492 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 18 (MAP)—A Moroccan-EEC agreement on transport taking into account the integration of EC member countries' national transport legislations and the requirements of Moroccan operators of the sector was at the center of a meeting here between head of the EC delegation Marc Pierini and Moroccan Transport Minister Rachid Ghazouani.

The two sides reviewed the cooperation existing between Morocco and the EC in transport areas and means to further enhance them.

Pierini said an information session will be held to expound the consequences and incidence of the liberation in 1993 of air transports in Europe as part of the European single market. Ghazouani recalled the liberal character of the Moroccan economy stressing that the

liberalization process must be accompanied by transition measures to adapt the country's economy to the new situation.

Ghazouani on the other hand conferred with French Ambassador to Morocco Leveque on transport cooperation between Morocco and France and the ongoing talkss in the field between the kingdom and the EEC. Morocco and France have a diversified transport cooperation including personnel and staff training, air traffic control, and technology transfer.

EC Pays First Installment of Fishing Compensation

LD2609161292 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Rabat, Sept. 25 (MAP)—The European Communities Commission has just paid Morocco the first installment of the financial compensation provided for by the Morocco-EEC fisheries accord of last May 15, a release by the EEC delegation in Rabat said.

The first installment amounts to 90 million ecus (about 1,007 million DH [dirhams]), the release said adding that in addition to this direct financial compensation, Morocco is to get in the coming weeks 10.7 million ecus (about 120 million DH) as part of other aspects of the accord, namely specific actions, scientific and training programs and others.

The release explained that in addition to these payments that are drawn from the EEC own budget, Morocco gets fishing licence fees that are directly paid to the Kingdom by EEC fishing trawlers' owners.

The Spanish fishing sector will also get an EEC assistance worth 1,255 billion pesetas destined to the processing and marketing of sea products.

The assistance will be invested in 28 projects, Spanish minister of agriculture and fisheries said adding that the EEC will consider by the end of the current year assistance to other Spanish projects. The regions that benefit most of the EEC essistance are Asturia, Andalucia, Canary Islands, Galicia, Valencia, Catalonia and Basque country.

Sudan

Al-Din Says No Crisis With Egypt Over Hala'ib

NC2509091792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, said that Sudan always considered itself a guard of the southern gate of Egypt and the Egyptian people.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Khartoum, the Sudanese minister said Sudan does not consider Hala'ib a problem, adding that he does not think there is a crisis between Sudan and Egypt over a piece of land the area of which does not exceed 23 km square. He reiterated Sudan's desire to safeguard the profound historical ties between the two countries.

The Sudanese minister expressed the hope that the Hala'ib issue will be solved through negotiations by the Joint Sudanese-Egyptian Committee that has been formed for this purpose. He pointed out that the committee will meet in October.

The Sudanese official categorically denied the charges leveled against him by a Sudanese paper that he supports the rebels in southern Sudan. He said the statements the paper attributed to him are baseless.

Nigerian Delegation Arrives for Talks 22 Sep

EA2309123592 Khartoum SUNA in English 0923 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Sep (SUNA)—A Nigerian Government's delegation arrived here Tuesday [22 September] evening in a three-day visit to Sudan. The visit comes in the framework of the preparations for resuming peace talks between Sudan's Government and rebellion movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] in Abuja, Nigeria. The delegation was received at Khartoum Airport by head of the peace committee at the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] Ahmad al-Radi Jabir.

In a statement to SUNA upon arrival, the head of the delegation, Col Lawan Gwadabe said: The target of the visit is to provide another chance for holding a second round of peace talks in Abuja. He said the documents that the delegation brought with them represent an attempt to harmonise between the stances of Sudan Government and the rebellion movement. The delegation's head expressed his belief that these documents provide a new basis for permanent peace in Sudan.

The date of the coming round of talks, the head of the Nigerian delegation said, it would be fixed by both Sudan Government and the rebel movement.

A Nigerian technical team is scheduled to arrive here next week to discuss these documents, Gwadabe said. He expressed hope that there would be accommodation in the parties' stances in order to guarantee reaching a lasting peace in Sudan.

Meanwhile, Jabir said the delegation will meet the TNA speaker Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and Abuja peace talks committee, adding that the resumption of the second round of peace talks in Abuja would be decided on the basis of the Nigerian delegation's tour outcome.

Babangida Sends al-Bashir Cable

EA2409214592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] The Nigerian president, Ibrahim Babangida, expressed his hope that the second round of the Abuja

talks will be crowned with success and lead to the achievement of peace, stability, and a comprehensive development in Sudan. Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, received this cable from General Ibrahim Babangida in response to the cable al-Bashir sent thanking him for the great efforts exerted in rendering the Abuja meeting a success.

Hamdi Briefs al-Bashir on Trip, IMF Meetings

EA2709194592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Sep (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, received in his office here Sunday [27 September] the minister of finance and economic planning 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi.

The finance minister presented to Gen. al-Bashir a report on the outcome of his recent visit to Washington and his participation in the annual meetings of the IMF.

In a statement to SUNA, Hamdi explained that an initial agreement has been reached between the Sudan Government and a number of Arab and Western investors to contribute to the telecommunications sector.

He pointed out that he held a number of meetings with officials at the London exchange market on establishment of exchange market in the Sudan.

On the other hand, Hamdi announced to SUNA the Sudan's donation of 100,000 tonnes of sorghum to the people affected by famine in the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa. He added that the Sudan granted 15,000 tonnes of sorghum to Kenya within the context of supporting African people.

Tunisia

Ben Ali, 'Arafat Meet To Discuss Peace Talks

LD1909223192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Brother president leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met at Carthage Palace with his brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning. Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya and brother Hakam Bal'awi, a Fatah Movement Central Committee member and ambassador of the state of Palestine in Tunisia, were present.

During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed, among which are the recent developments in the peace process in the Middle East; the obstacles Rabin's government is putting up to thwart this process; the attempts of the Israeli delegation to overstep the two invitation letters from the cosponsors of the conference; the U.S. guarantees letter; and President Bush's initiative that provides for land for peace and the implementation of UN resolutions Numbers 242 and 338; and the realization of the Palestinian people's political rights.

The recent developments in the Palestinian arena were also discussed, as well as the developments of the blessed and steadfast Palestinian intifadah inside our occupied territories.

Brother Abu 'Ammar thanked the president for the principled and pan-Arab position adopted by Tunisia—president, government, and people—with their brothers, the Palestinian people, and their just and sacred cause, the forefront of which is holy Jerusalem.

Following the meeting, the brother president made the following statement:

The meeting this morning was very important. As you know, there exists a big stumbling block in the talks under way in Washington with respect to the Arab delegations in general and the Palestinian delegation in particular.

It was very important to inform his excellency of these details currently taking place between our delegation and the Israeli delegation. It is also important to stress listening to his advice, especially since the points of disagreement are fundamental points. The Israeli delegation insists on overstepping the invitation letter that we received from the conference cosponsors, the United States and Russia, and also the guarantees letter we received from the U.S. sponsor. The Israeli delegation is also insistent on overstepping President Bush's initiative that provides for land for peace and the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which indicate the withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, the forefront of which is holy Jerusalem. They also overstep the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights and security for all in the region.

Regrettably, there is an Israeli ossification, which does not want change at all and in fact considers Jerusalem, the independent Palestinian state, and the implementation of Resolution 242, red lines. But these are also red lines for us; therefore, we invited the cosponsors of the conference and asked the president to use his efforts with the U.S. side to intervene so that the talks do not arrive at this dead end.

At the same time, Abu 'Ammar said, I informed the president of the conditions of our people inside the occupied territories, in particular the battles that the Israeli army engineers fight against our people from Janin in the north to Rafah in the south. I told him about the continuing iron fist policy against our people, children, and women. And I informed the president that these practices will not stop the greatness of the Palestinian fighters; they will continue their intifadah, wave after wave, until, God willing, the Palestinian flag is hoisted over Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine and until the Palestinian-Jordanian confederation is arrived at in accordance with the voluntary and free choice of the two fraternal peoples.

I also thanked the president for this principled, ethical, pan- Arab, and religious position adopted by Tunisia,

president, government, and people, with their Palestinian brothers, be it in the talks, or in all international and Arab positions and inside our occupied land.

Ben Yahya 'Can Confirm' Sudanese 'Interference'

NC2009072092 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
15 Sep 92 p6

[Report on an interview with Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya by Hurriyah Ahmad Husayn; date and place not given]

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya said that he can confirm, on behalf of the Tunisian Government, Sudan's interference in Tunisia's internal affairs. He said: We have information on Sudan's actual interference in Tunisia's and other countries' internal affairs in the name of Islam and religion.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM, the Tunisian foreign minister underlined his country's enthusiasm for Arab unity and solidarity. He said that he will visit Kuwait soon at the invitation of its foreign minister. He added that there are no problems at present between Tunisia and the Gulf states, explaining that there was at one time some misunderstanding of Tunisia's position on the Gulf crisis.

Regarding the situation in Algeria and its effects on the situation in his country, the Tunisian foreign minister said that Tunisia has expressed on many occasions its interest in the situation in Algeria and in what is happening there while respecting the principle of noninterference in Algeria's affairs. He added that there are intensive and constant consultations between the two countries. He added that the Tunisian Government is fully confident of the Algerian Government's ability to contain and confront anything that damages or threatens Algeria's security and stability.

About his country's position on what is happening in Libya and about Libyan-Tunisian relations, Habib Ben Yahya said: We put things in their proper perspective and without introducing the factor of tension in Tunisian-Libyan relations. President Ben Ali's response to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's attacks reflected this position.

He announced that his country will chair the next session of the Arab Maghreb Union that will be held before the end of the year.

Libya Suspends Border Restrictions on Tunisians

PM2109133792 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
17 Sep 92 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan-Tunisian Relations Back to Normal"]

[Excerpt] Tunis—Informed Tunisian sources confirmed to AL-HAYAH that Libyan-Tunisian relations are now back to normal after last week's clouds in the sky between the two governments.

They said that the Libyan authorities have now suspended the new measures imposed on Tunisian traders and travelers between the two countries at border crossings. The Tunisians had seen these measures as harassment of Tunisian nationals while Libyan sources saw them as "individual cases that do not reflect the official position."

The sources denied that any new restrictions "have been imposed or are about to be imposed on travelers by the authorities." [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Talks Held on Status of Abu Musa Island

Iranians 'Optimistic' Upon Arrival

NC2609121792 Paris AFP in English 1136 GMT 26 Sep 92

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, Sept 26 (AFP)—Iranian negotiators who arrived here Saturday for talks with United Arab Emirates (UAE) officials expressed optimism for a peaceful solution to their dispute over Abu Musa Island.

"We are always optimistic," Hasan Aminian, Iran's ambassador to the UAE and a member of the negotiating team, told reporters after the Iranian team arrived in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi for talks due to begin Sunday.

"So we are optimistic about a solution to this problem. Our authorities in Iran believe it can be solved," said Aminian, on his return from Iran where he had consulted with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Asked whether he thought a military confrontation could erupt if the negotiations collapse, Aminian replied: "Not at all." He said Sunday's meeting could pave the way for higher-level talks.

The UAE and Iran want to maintain traditionally good ties, Aminian added. "We have always maintained strong relations. I don't think the problem has had a bad impact on these relations. After all, it will be solved through negotiations."

In the Iranian capital, meanwhile, the TEHRAN TIMES English-language daily stressed Iran's desire for a peaceful resolution to the dispute, blaming "unfriendly countries outside the region" for increasing tension.

The delegation is headed by veteran Gulf expert, Mostafa Fumani Ha'eri, director of Gulf Arab affairs at the Foreign Ministry and advisor to Foreign Minister Velayati.

Ha'eri, a Muslim cleric who graduated in Islamic studies from Tehran University, was Iran's ambassador to the UAE until he returned to Tehran in 1989.

Diplomats expect the negotiations being kicked off by Sunday's meeting will be difficult as both states claim Abu Musa as well as nearby islands Big Tunb and Little Tunb. The talks will cover all three islands, according to Gulf officials. Big Tunb and Little Tunb were occupied by Iran three days before the UAE was created on December 2, 1971.

The three islands occupy a strategic location near the Strait of Hormuz, a passageway between Oman and Iran through which one-fifth of the world's oil is shipped. [passage omitted]

First Round Ends

NC2709212192 Paris AFP in English 2035 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 27 (AFP)—United Arab Emirates and Iranian officials ended a first round of negotiations Sunday and agreed to hold more in a bid to defuse a dispute over islands in the world's main oil shipping lanes.

The UAE's official news agency WAM said the two sides would hold another round of talks on Monday after an initial session in which they outlined their positions.

In Tehran, the pro-radical newspaper ABRAR called for a "peaceful" solution to the dispute over Abu Musa island to ensure there would be no "foreign intervention."

It is the first meeting between the two since the long-simmering dispute over Abu Musa flared last month. A UAE official said another dispute over Greater and Lesser Tunb islands would also be discussed.

All three are located near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly one fifth of the world's oil is shipped.

"We are open for any issue that will be raised during the meeting," an Iranian delegate to the talks said. "We want the talks to be prevailed by a brotherly and friendly atmosphere so we could reach a solution."

The UAE has accused Iran of trying to annex Abu Musa by insisting that visitors must have Iranian visas. The UAE emirate of Sharjah and Iran have jointly administered Abu Musa under a 1971 British-sponsored accord.

Leading the UAE team is its Gulf affairs director Sayf Sa'id while the Iranian delegation is led by Mostafa (Fumani Ha'eri), who was Iran's ambassador to the UAE for three years until he returned to Tehran in 1989.

The negotiations, which could pave the way for a higher-level meeting, are being held at the Abu Dhabi seaside presidential court amid tight security. Foreign journalists were kept away.

On Saturday Hasan Aminian, Iran's ambassador to the UAE and also a member of the negotiating team, said the crisis could be resolved and a compromise was possible.

But diplomats thought Iran would be reluctant to yield too many concessions.

"No matter what the solution is, I think Iran will in no way agree to relinquish these islands, which are its only base to monitor the strategic Strait of Hormuz," a Western diplomat said.

"On the other hand, the UAE considers the Iranian presence an occupation and insists on regaining sovereignty over them," the diplomat said. "As you see the situation is complicated and you have to expect difficult negotiations."

Iranian troops moved into part of Abu Musa three days before the UAE was created on December 2, 1971 under a power-sharing agreement signed between the late shah of Iran and Sharjah.

Abu Dhabi also wants to raise the issue of Greater and Lesser Tunb, which Iran allegedly occupied in 1971 after Ras al-Khaimah refused to sign a similar accord.

A UAE Foreign Ministry official said early this month the UAE had repeatedly tried to bring Iran to the negotiating table since the 1979 Islamic revolution but that Tehran rebuffed the attempts.

Iran agreed to the negotiations this month after the UAE threatened to take the dispute to international arbitration.

Diplomats warned a failure in the talks could lead to renewed instability in the Gulf.

In Tehran, General Rahim Safavi, deputy commander in chief of the Revolutionary Guards militia, said Iran will not bargain on any inch of its "Islamic land," according to a newspaper close to radicals.

But the general did not refer to Abu Musa and the smaller islands.

Iran, he said, "is very sensitive about every drop of water from the Arvand River and the Persian Gulf," according to the KAYHAN daily.

The Arvand-Rud, known as the Shatt al-Arab by the Arabs, is a waterway constituting a maritime border between Iran and Iraq and has been at the center of an old dispute between the two countries.

'Unchanged' Iranian Policy Cited

NC2809080192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Iranian and UAE Foreign Ministry officials agreed to continue talks in their respective capitals in a friendly atmosphere away from propaganda. They reached this agreement yesterday during the first round of talks between both countries' officials in Abu Dhabi.

During the talks, supervised by the director general for Persian Gulf Affairs at the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry and his UAE counterpart, both sides discussed the issue of Abu Musa Island. Iran's delegation stressed the government's stable and principled policy on expanding and consolidating good-neighborly relations with neighboring countries.

During the talks, the Islamic Republic's principled positions and Iran's unchanged policy on Abu Musa Island were explained to the UAE officials.

The political delegations of Iran and the UAE will hold the second round of talks on Abu Musa in Abu Dhabi today.

Talks Described as 'Fruitful'

LD2809082792 Tehran IRNA in English 0641 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept 28, IRNA—Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday agreed to continue their talks on the 'Abu Musa' island in the capitals of the two countries in a "peaceful" atmosphere and far from propaganda ballyhoo. Director General of the Persian Gulf Affairs Department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Mostafa Fumani-Ha'eri and his UAE counterpart Sayf Sa'id led the two political delegations during talks in Abu Dhabi Sunday.

Describing as "fruitful" the outcome of the talks, a source close to the Iranian delegation expressed optimisim over the trend of the talks. The UAE delegation was briefed on Tehran's principled stance and its "unchanged" policy over the Iranian island of Abu Musa by a member of the Iranian delegation.

The second round of talks is to be held today in the UAE capital.

Second Round Resumes 28 Sep

LD2809090392 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept. 28, IRNA—Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) started a second round of talks to settle their difference on Iran's Persian Gulf island of Abu Musa, here Monday. Political sources in the region describe the outcome of today's talks as "important and determining".

During the second round of the talks, the sources added, the two sides will raise their latest viewpoints over the current dispute. Meanwhile, the UAE news agency (WAM) Monday said that Iranian and the UAE delegations would discuss issues raised in their Sunday night session over disputes between the two countries on the three islands of Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek.

Foreign Ministry Director General for Persian Gulf Affairs Department Mostafa Fumani-Ha'eri is currently here to discuss the issue with his UAE counterpart Sayf Sa'id Sa'id.

Memo Presented to Iran

JN2809100192 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] The second round of talks between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran on the disputed islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa concluded today. The UAE delegation is led by Sayf Sa'id Sa'id, director of the Gulf Cooperation Council Affairs Department, and the Iranian delegation is led by Mostafa Ha'eri-Fumani, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Gulf Affairs Directorate.

WAM has learned that the UAE delegation to the talks with the Iranian delegation presented a memorandum to the Iranian side, containing the state's views on the dispute over the islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa. The news agency also learned that the Iranian side will hold talks with its government concerning this memorandum.

At the end of the second round, it was agreed to resume discussion of disputed issues during a third session this evening. During the evening session, the Iranian side will present the results of consultations with its government regarding the UAE memorandum.

'Break' in Talks Sought

NC2809111592 Paris AFP in English 1034 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 28 (AFP)—Talks between Iranian and United Arab Emirates officials on a territorial dispute were suspended after only 15 minutes on Monday when the UAE negotiators tried to discuss all three islands involved, Iranian embassy sources said.

The Iranian delegation asked for the break so it could consult with the government in Tehran after the UAE side raised the issue of the Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb islands, one source said. "The delegation said it is here to discuss only Abu Musa," the source said. The talks were expected to resume later in the day.

They opened late Sunday on what UAE officials consider Iranian occupation of Abu Musa and the two nearby islands of Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb. Iran says it owns the three tiny but strategically located Gulf islands which control the Strait of Hormuz, passageway for a fifth of the world's oil supplies.

A UAE official said the Iranian delegation did not have full powers.

"They came here to discuss one issue, which is Abu Musa. They seem they did not have the powers to discuss other issues," the official said.

The dispute flared up this year when Iran extended its control to all Abu Musa, which it had shared with the UAE under a 1971 British-sponsored agreement.

UAE 'Compromise' Ruled Out

NC2809125492 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 28 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE), buoyed by strong Arab support, has accused Iran of occupying three disputed Gulf islands and demanded that it quit them, sources close to negotiations between the two countries said on Monday.

They said the UAE made the demand in a memorandum it presented to the Iranian delegation during talks here Monday. The Iranians asked for an adjournment of the meeting to consult the government in Tehran.

"The UAE is waiting for the Iranian response when they meet again this evening," one source said. "It could resort to the international community if the Iranians reject the demand."

A UAE official, requesting anonymity, ruled out any compromise over Abu Musa and the neighbouring islands of Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb. Iran says it owns the three tiny but strategically located Gulf islands which control the Strait of Hormuz, passageway for a fifth of the world's oil supplies.

"Iran has no choice but to leave the three islands. We don't have any dispute over them because they are simply occupied," the official said.

"There is no return to the status quo on Abu Musa," he added, in a reference to the 1971 agreement under which Iran and the UAE emirate of al-Shariqah shared the 25-square-kilometre (10 square mile) island.

Yemen

PLO Leader 'Arafat Attends Revolution Celebration

Criticizes U.S. Aid to Israel

JN2609191092 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], state of Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Sanaa last night on a visit to the Republic of Yemen to join celebrations to mark the 30th anniversary of the 16 September revolution and the 29th anniversary of the 14 October revolution. He will hold talks with Yemeni leaders on cooperation between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and Arab and Palestinian developments in light of the Middle East peace negotiations, in addition to other issues of mutual interest.

'Arafat was welcomed at Sanaa International Airport by brother Muhammad 'Ali Haytham, member of the Consultative Council and the General Committee of the

General People's Congress; brother Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Sanaa; and a number of Palestinian cadres in Yemen.

In an arrival statement, Abu-'Ammar congratulated the Yemeni leadership and people on the blessed anniversary of the Yemeni revolution and wished them progress and prosperity. On the peace process, brother Abu-'Ammar stated that terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin's inflexible position is no different than that of his terrorist predecessor Shamir. He blamed Zionist intransigence on the limitless U.S. support for the Zionist entity's terrorist prime minister, citing the $10 billion loan guarantees to finance the construction of further settlements on Palestinian territory and the U.S. pledge to maintain the Zionist entity's military edge. Brother Abu-'Ammar said that this position is not just anti-Palestinian, but anti-Arab as well. He noted that the Zionist entity continues to build settlements, citing the construction of 11,000 housing units on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to another 14,000 in Jerusalem alone. Brother Abu-'Ammar pointed out that, supported by the United States, the Zionist entity is striving to split Arab ranks by moving Arab tracks at the bilateral negotiations forward to the exclusion of the Palestinian track. He said that Middle East peace and stability will remain unobtainable short of a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue providing for an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil with Jerusalem as its capital, as called for by UN resolutions.

Criticizes 'Zionist Inflexibility,' Departs

JN2709193892 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], state of Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, left Sanaa today. He was attending the brotherly Yemeni people's celebrations on the occasion of their September and October revolutions. In a departure statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', brother Abu-'Ammar said he had briefed brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, on the state of the recently-concluded sixth round of the peace talks in Washington. The Palestinian track at the bilateral talks were bogged down thanks to Zionist inflexibility that shows Rabin to be pursuing not so much a just and comprehensive peace as normalized Arab-Zionist relations to the detriment of national Palestinian rights. The Zionist negotiators, added Abu-'Ammar, have been dodging the principles underlying President Bush's initiative, namely a swap of land for peace, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and recognition of Palestinian national rights. He noted that the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territories is mounting.

On hand to bid farewell to brother Abu-'Ammar at Sanaa International Airport were brothers Muhammad 'Ali Haytham, member of the Consultative Council and the General Committee of the General People's Congress; Yahya Rabah, the state of Palestine's ambassador in Sanaa; an official of the Presidential Protocol; and Palestinian cadres in Sanaa.

Chemical Weapons Found at 'Declared Sites'

NC2609133492 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 26 (AFP)—U.N. inspectors on Saturday found chemical weapons and ammunitions that Iraq should have transferred to a common site where they are to be destroyed.

Team leader Bernhard Brunner of Switzerland told reporters that the team visited two sites near al-Habbaniyah, 60 kilometers (37 miles) west of Baghdad, and found "weapons had been stored" there.

Brunner said chemical "weapons and ammunition" which should have been rounded up and transferred to al-Muthana, 130 kilometres (80 miles) northwest of the capital, were found in al-Habbaniyah at "declared sites."

"Iraq was told to move those to al-Muthana," he said, adding there was "no problem" with the Iraqi authorities.

The mission—the 44th sent to Iraq under U.N. resolutions calling for Baghdad's disarmament in the wake of the 1991 Gulf War—is to determine whether Iraq has moved all its chemical weapons to the al-Muthana desert site, where destruction plants have been built under U.N. supervision.

A previous U.N. inspection team said before leaving Iraq on September 12 that almost all Iraq's chemical weapons had been transferred there.

Brunner said Friday that since his six-man team began its mission Tuesday it had visited "two to three" suspect sites that had not been declared by the Iraqi authorities.

Opposition Conference Issues 'Final Statement'

JN2709173592 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1610 GMT 27 Sep 92

["Final statement" issued by the Iraqi opposition at the end of its meeting held in Salah-al-Din and Shaqlawah, Irbil Governorate, 23-27 September; read by Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; carried within the Kurdish program—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Final statement of the Iraqi opposition meeting held in Salah al-Din and Shaqlawah [words indistinct] 23-27 September 1992.

At the invitation of Brother Mas'ud Barzani and on behalf of his Brother Jalal Talabani and the political leadership of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, the Iraqi opposition held a meeting in the cities of Salah al-Din and Shaqlawah in Irbil Governorate from 23-27 September 1992.

In addition to the Kurdistan Front, the meeting was attended by Iraqi opposition parties and forces, including the Iraqi National Conference and the Joint Action Committee, representing all political, intellectual, and national Arab and Kurdish groups and the various Islamic and political trends.

With a high spirit of responsibility and certain concern about the aspirations of the people and the homeland, the conferees discussed the ways to unify the Iraqi opposition [words indistinct]. They reached the conclusion that there is a need to converge efforts [words indistinct] and activate the Iraqi opposition, close its ranks, and unify its forces to expedite its steps aimed at toppling the tyrant dictatorship regime; establishing a parliamentary pluralistic rule stemming from the free will of the people and based on a permanent constitution for the country enacted by an elected national assembly through democratic, free, and fair methods; achieving equality among people; guaranteeing rights and democratic liberties; achieving security and stability; establishing the state of law and institutions; and respecting basic human rights, particularly civic and political rights, and respecting the nation's doctrine represented by Islam.

The meeting discussed with great concern the tragic situation of our Iraqi people and their human, living, and psychological tribulations; the continuation of the economic blockade, whose burdens are shouldered mainly by the citizens, in addition to the Iraqi people's sufferings as a result of political terrorism and wars. The repressive measures affected all sectors of the Iraqi people, [words indistinct], including Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans, Assyrians, and others. The regime's political terrorism also affected all parts of Iraq—north, center, and south. [Words indistinct] because of the economic blockade, he continued with his aggressive course, which resulted in the invasion of Kuwait after the adventure of the Iraqi-Iranian war and his insistence on entering a war whose results had been decided in advance.

Saddam Husayn's aggressive policy has turned Iraq into a hotbed of tension in the region and [words indistinct] stability. Therefore, the conferees believe that regional stability is contingent upon the removal of the Saddam Husayn regime so that the region may enjoy freedom, peace, and fraternal ties among [words indistinct] in the region on the basis of respect, good neighborliness, mutual benefits, renunciation of the policy of aggression, and respect for the UN Charter and international charters as well.

The conferees urged the international community to implement Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 and to distribute aid among Iraqi civilians through the United Nations and its various institutions, representatives of local administrations, and representatives of the local population.

The conferees also addressed a special appeal to the Security Council, urging it to help allocate part of the Iraqi funds frozen in international financial institutions to provide the Iraqi people with relief supplies to free them from the specter of starvation, [words indistinct], and aggravating social problems.

The conferees examined and highly valued the decision made by the allies and the Security Council permanent members to prevent the regime's aircraft from flying below the 32d Parallel. They urged the international community in general and the Security Council in particular to implement Resolution 688, to (?develop it), to find a special mechanism for it to cover all of Iraq, and to prevent the Iraqi regime from persisting with its blatant and flagrant human rights violations. The conferees issued a special appeal in this regard, addressing the world public, urging it to apply pressure to make the region below the 32d Parallel a safe haven, free of the regime's control and its [words indistinct], an effective international protection for the Arab population in central and southern Iraq, and to remove the imminent dangers posed to the peaceful Shiite Arabs in preparation for the restoration of full Iraqi sovereignty and national unity. As for our people in southern Iraq, they continue to be the targets of collective genocide campaigns through the burning of villages; poisoning of water; blockading food and (?medicine); spreading a climate of terror; killing innocent citizens, including men, women, and children, and burying them in mass graves; and attempting to [word indistinct] the marshlands and evict thousands of families there after killing their men in remote areas of Iraq. The regime has persisted in desecrating holy shrines in the holy cities of Karbala', al-Najaf, and elsewhere. Additionally, the regime continues to encroach on religious authority in the holy city of al-Najaf.

In the course of this unscrupulous campaign against the majority of Shiite Arabs, Saddam's regime is attempting to confer a sectarian character on his criminal conduct by claiming that he is defending Arab Sunnis. He is attempting to foment sectarian sedition meant to yield benefits for him and his regime. As for our people, they are fully aware of his gimmicks. They will not be deceived by this malicious gimmick, because they are fully aware that Saddam is the enemy of Sunni and Shiite Arabs alike. Our people are determined to safeguard the firm cohesion existing among all of their sects and ethnic groups.

The conferees called for using all possible legitimate means to fill the imminent political vacuum created by the enforcement of an air exclusion zone in southern Iraq. They also stressed the need to develop this status in order to protect people on the ground from the regime's repressive activities and to enable them to exercise their free will in a way that protects Iraq's unity and paves the way for reinforcing its national options.

The meeting looked into the repercussions of the repressive chauvinistic policies pursued by successive governments—not least the current one—against the Kurdish people. The meeting urged respect for the Kurdish people's national rights, an end to all forms of racial and chauvinistic oppression applied against them, an affirmation of the principle of Arab-Kurdish brotherhood and partnership in Iraq, the incorporation of a clause into the country's Constitution banning ethnic discrimination and the use of violence in handling ethnic issues and providing for punishment of violators or those who foster such practices.

The meeting stressed anxiety for the unity of Iraq and coexistence among various nationalities of the Iraqi people, thus disproving all claims about separation or partition. [Words indistinct] the Kurdish people their right to self-determination within a democratic, independent, and united Iraq and so as to assure the joint interests of the brotherly Arab and Kurdish people as well as the ethnic and cultural and administrative rights of the Turkmen and Assyrians, and ensure equality with respect to rights and obligations and incorporate this into the constitution.

Discussing the political future of Iraq, the meeting stressed the necessity of banning sectarian discrimination and the adoption of a sound concept of Iraqi citizenship founded on equality among citizens and an affirmation of belonging to the homeland free of grudges and causes of divisions and discrimination. The meeting underlined the need to ensure equality among the Iraqi people without discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin, religion, color, sect, or social or national affiliation.

The meeting called for the repatriation of the displaced Iraqi people who were forced out of their homeland and the safeguarding of their rights, including al-Fayniyah Kurds. It also called for ensuring the return of all displaced Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, and Assyrians to their villages, hamlets, and cities which they were forced to leave over the past 20 plus years. The meeting called for enacting a new Iraqi citizenship law and abrogating all the irregular measures peculiar to the present Iraqi law that runs counter to citizenship rights.

The meeting examined the experiment of the democratic elections that took place in Iraqi Kurdistan and commended their results as an important step along the road to the victory of freedom in Iraq. The meeting appealed to Arab, Islamic, and world opinion to help the Kurdish people and to enable them to face down dictatorship and its economic blockade. The meeting also appealed for financial, economic, and cultural aid to institutions to help the effort of rehabilitating Kurdistan. The population of the marshlands and the south also needs aid, especially in light of the recent measures taken by the Iraqi Government that sought, in addition to [word indistinct] population, the [word indistinct] of the area.

The meeting also hailed our people's glorious uprising during which they showed rare courage and heroism in their bloody and continuing fight against the oppressive regime. The meeting renewed their pledge to stick to the path of revolution side by side with the movement of this proud Muslim people.

Emphasizing its resolve to stand up to the oppressive dictatorial regime, the oppositon forces' meeting views the right of the Iraqi people to change and [words indistinct] a central and legitimate matter that cannot be conceded or taken lightly. [Words indistinct] national duty in the opposition agreement [words indistinct] all assistance from friendly and brotherly forces and countries in order to save the Iraqi people and extricate them from the claws of despotism.

Discussions at the series of meetings held by the conferees dealt with a host of issues important to the Iraqi cause. A host of decisions have been made on these issues, which will unify and activate the Iraqi opposition in various fields.

The meetings formed a preparatory committee assigned to prepare for an expanded meeting of all factions of the Iraqi opposition soon, and to work out a program for the topics that will be included on its agenda.

O sons of our heroic Iraqi people, you who have written in your pure blood [words indistinct] in your heroic March 1991 uprising, you who have expressed with blood the unity of your ranks [word indistinct] against his regime, you who have chosen to walk on the road of bloody struggle, you sons of various ethninc groups and communities, you widows and orphans of the martyrs, you who are steadfast in the horrible Iraqi prisons, you who are dispersed all over the world, you who are deprived of the simplest human rights: Here your sons of the Iraqi opposition forces have united. So, rally behind them in order to achieve their historic mission.

O you sons of the Armed Forces, you whose image Saddam tried to distort and give a repressive picture, the sons of your people are looking to you to practice your human and historic role alongside the people to strike at the regime and to (?end) the tragedy which has lasted a long time.

O you [words indistinct] Iraq and who were deceived by the regime, our people are looking to you to return to their ranks where you will find a warm welcome so that your march unites with the people's march, and so that you participate in building a prosperous future that will secure safety, welfare, and stability to the sons of our people.

O you who look forward to freedom, it is demanded of you today—more than ever—to continue the march toward salvation which is seen on the horizon carrying the good tidings of a prosperous future in which freedom prevails and [word indistinct] happiness through unity of ranks and the spirit of awareness and alertness in order to abort all tricks and methods of the regime aimed at undermining your legitimate rights. While we call on you to continue the march, we promise you—based on the unity of fate and [word indistinct] in order to realize the holy objectives—to be with you at the forefront of the confrontation, and to continue with you in the same trench until the nightmare is over and until the banner of freedom is hoisted over beloved Iraqi territory.

And say: Work. Soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verses]

Peace be upon you.

Kurdish Leaders Comment

JN2809090692 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] On 26-27 September, brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani was interviewed on the final session of the expanded meeting of the Iraqi opposition. He told journalists: During the meeting, it was agreed to unite the Iraqi opposition. It was also decided that an expanded meeting for the opposition would be held within a month. Two resolutions have also been drafted concerning the future of Iraq, recognition of the Kurdish people's rights according to the formula that we want; namely, a federation—which is approved by parliament—and the establishment of an institution to supervise work. The results of today's meeting will be discussed at tomorrow's meeting when the final results will be announced.

Answering a question regarding the election of a political leadership for future Iraq, he said: Several issues were discussed and prepared and will be agreed on during the next expanded meeting, which will be held within a month. Among these issues was the possibility of endorsing the resolution that will be issued by our parliament, or endorsing it in another formula, be it the federation or some other plan. This is because it should first be issued by the parliament. The plan is currently under discussion. Once it is approved, it will be endorsed during the next expanded meeting.

Regarding Iraq's future, he said: The conferees have agreed that future Iraq must enjoy democratic parliamentary pluralistic rule.

Answering another question on the conferees' acceptance of the Kurdish people's right to self-determination and federation, he said: They understand this, and we will adopt a different stand toward those who do not agree on this. I mean those who refuse to recognize these rights.

In reply to another question, Mas'ud Barzani said: There were differences among the opposition factions in the past. The Kurdish liberation movement played an effective role in overcoming and settling these differences.

Jalal Talabani told journalists last night: All parties to the Iraqi opposition have felt full harmony among the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Kurdistan Democratic

Party, and the other parties to the Kurdistan Front, and the positive effects this has had on the Iraqi opposition parties.

Asked how he views future struggle in the light of this meeting, Jalal Talabani said: It is not like simple or immediate surgery that can be performed by a doctor. Due to the complicated structure and components of the regime, it is not easy to topple. Because it is facing serious impasses and problems, however, its collapse is inevitable. The quick formation of an expanded Iraqi front and solidarity among the opposition factions will expedite the toppling of the regime.

Concerning discussion of the federation issue during the meeting, he said: The federation issue was not officially discussed during the meeting. The right to self-determination, which was approved by the Vienna conference, has not yet been defined, and it needs some time.

Asked about the differences in viewpoints of opposition factions and to what extent this would affect the meeting's resolutions, Jalal Talabani: In general, all the important issues will be approved, and viewpoints are very close.

Sunni Statement Calls For End to Dictatorship

NC2709171192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Excerpts] A number of key Iraqi Sunni figures who prefer to remain anonymous for security reasons issued a statement on 15 September in which they urged real cohesion among all the Iraqi people. They condemned the regime and its divisive policy. The Sunni personalities denounced the sectarian voices coming from the regime and its allies, which bemoan Iraq's unity while maintaining a silence over the massacres being committed against the Iraqi people.

In their statement, the Iraqi Sunni figures said: The crisis facing the regime in Iraq has intensified gravely and assumed various regional and international dimensions. The people's opposition has also intensified, and resistance operations have been stepped up against the regime's practices, particularly in the south. All this has led to the imposition of the no-fly zone to protect the Shiites in the south, according to official Western statements.

The statement goes on to say that these developments, subsequent measures, and inaccurate (?analyses) have aroused the concern of various circles regarding Iraq's unity and sovereignty. This makes it imperative to shed light on certain points and stands.

1. No doubt the foreign intervention in Iraq's affairs runs counter to the values and principles of the state's sovereignty. Every zealous Iraqi citizen cannot but abide by and defend this principle. However, responsibility for all the developments that took place and that harmed Iraqi sovereignty must be chiefly shouldered by the Iraqi regime, in view of its occupation of Kuwait and the outbreak of war—which produced grave consequencies for Iraq. These developments have practically placed the regime under UN custodianship in accordance with the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 687. The Iraqi Government had accepted all the resolutions in order to stay in power, but remained indifferent to the provisions that contradict Iraqi sovereignty.

The Iraqi regime's behavior during its war with Iran contributed to the arrival of Western forces to the region, and provided them with a golden opportunity to occupy startegic positions in the Gulf, without taking into account the principles of national sovereignty in this sensitive area. The Iraqi regime also concluded an official agreement with Turkey in the mid-eighties, according to which the Turkish Army was allowed to launch military operations inside Iraq.

The statement adds: A regime with such a record is not qualified to defend Iraqi sovereignty. Those [words indistinct], particularly the Arab brothers, should safeguard Iraq's unity and national interests and fend off the dangers.

2. The abominable acts of atrocities, oppression, and persecution that the Iraqi regime is carrying out against its citizens forced various factions to welcome and call for the expansion of the UN protection; and

3. Accordingly, the anticipated real international solidarity with our people against oppression, persecution, and political despotism requires the full, strict implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 688, which must be applied to all areas alike. This requires the coordination of all mechanisms necessary for monitoring human rights violations throughout Iraq. [passage omitted]

The statement stresses that the Iraqi cause requires an end to dictatorial rule, the restoration of security and freedom in the country, and establishment of [words indistinct] that would safeguard Iraq's unity and society.

The statement concludes: The United States, Britain, and France have an agenda that differs from ours. They want to settle regional accounts, which could run counter to the aspirations of the Iraqi people. The danger threatening Iraq's unity is represented in the continuation of Saddam and his fascist regime.

Officers Movement Seeks To 'Topple' Saddam

NC2509155292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] The Iraqi Officers Movement has announced that it is seeking to topple the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn and establish a constitutional government that responds to the aspirations of the Iraqi people. In a statement issued yesterday on the occasion of the Irbil meeting of the Iraqi opposition groups, the movement

affirmed the need to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity, resist any attempts at partition, and respect the right of the people to self-determination.

The Iraqi Officers Movement stressed the need to ensure the political and ideological freedom of the Iraqi people, and expressed its readiness to place all its of resources at the service of all those who seek to establish a united, independent Iraq free of racial or sectarian discrimination. It said that it looks toward a bright Iraq in which the Arabs, Kurds, Turkomen, and all other nationalities can live in freedom and security.

Opposition Sources Report on Action in South

Threat of Chemical Warfare

NC2609145992 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] The outcast regime intends to use chemical weapons against civilians in southern Iraq under the guise of spraying the marshlands with pesticides. In a statement issued yesterday, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] said that the ostracized regime is paving the way to control these areas by spraying them with pesticides. SAIRI called on international organizations to keep watch over the southern areas to prevent the tyrant regime from committing new crimes.

Mass Executions, Relocations

NC2609150492 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have disclosed that the tyrant regime's repressive organs have arrested a large number of Iraqi citizens in southern Iraq and transported them to unidentified locations. In a statement published in London yesterday, these sources said the Iraqi regime and its repressive agencies continue to carry out mass executions of citizens whose loyalty to the regime is in doubt and accuse them of supporting the forces opposed to the regime. These sources also said that tribesmen in southern Iraq continue to confront the regime's repressive agency patrols.

Detainees in Mosul Desert

NC2609155792 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] A valiant people's group confronted a patrol of Saddam forces in the governorate of al-'Amarah last week. According to reports from the information center of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], four mercenaries, including a captain and a first lieutenant, were killed in the operation, which took place in an area between (al-Qazqa) and al-'Uzayr.

Another report from the SAIRI information center discloses that Saddam's authorities carried out criminal executions in Mosul. The report says that as part of its oppressive practices, Saddam's regime transports detainees to remote areas in the Mosul desert, known as al-Jazirah [the island], to be executed in groups. The executions coincide with escalating people's resistance against the terrorism and crimes of Iraq's tyrant.

'Forced' Regime Withdrawal

NC2609165492 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] The Iraqi opposition has obtained a recording of tyrant Saddam Husayn's voice shouting at his officers after his forces were forced to withdraw under pressure from the people's forces in the marshlands. The tyrant told his officers not to withdraw, saying: Go back immediately, and don't bother about losses. Let 600 soldiers die daily rather than withdraw.

The recording, in which Saddam shouts nervously, betrays the tyrant's confusion and his own sense of his imminent end.

In a statement published today, opposition sources said that, in the wake of successful assaults by the people's forces, the tyrant's forces were forced to withdraw and thereby stop protecting the so-called Third River Plan, which is aimed at diverting the marshland waters. These sources said that the withdrawal of the regime's forces angered the tyrant, who ordered the intensification of ground attacks and repression campaigns against citizens in the marshlands and the south.

Regime Shelling Marshlands

LD2609213992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Iraqi artillery units are continuing their shelling of the country's southern marshlands. A member of the groups opposed to the Iraqi regime announced this today and added: Saddam's forces have been using the artillery unit of the army's 28th Brigade in the past two days, inflicting damage on some marshland areas of Basra Province.

Napalm in al-'Amarah Province

LD2709125192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] The Iraqi regime's forces have subjected parts of al-'Amarah Province to severe attacks, using a variety of weapons, including napalm bombs. Announcing the news yesterday, Radio Revolutionary Iraq added: Residential areas and farmland in the regions of al-Majar, al-Kabir, al-Wadiyah, al-Adl, Qal'eh-Saleh, al- Negarah, al-Besharrah, and al-Shahriyah were among the areas that have come under fire. In the wake of these attacks, there have been extensive fires in these areas.

According to the same radio, in a clash between the opposition and government forces in the al-Adl region in

al-'Amarah Province, two battalions affiliated to the 422d Brigade of the Baghdad regime were totally destroyed, and they sustained heavy casualties and damage.

AL-THAWRAH on Bush's 'Defeat,' 'Failure'

JN2709074792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed the failure of the aggressive methods of the old criminal Bush.

In an article today, the paper says that when U.S. President Bush loses his balance and patience and pursues confused aggressive policies against Iraq, he merely displays his inability to leave the cycle of defeat and failure.

The paper explains that all Bush's aggressive methods which have been successful everywhere have faced complete failure in Iraq. The paper notes that the long-term plotting, the Iranian aggression, and the 30-state aggression have all been unsuccessful. Likewise, the long unjust blockade has failed to harm Iraq's firmness and will. The paper stresses that the elderly tenant will leave the White House before the end of this year, but Iraq will maintain its will, sovereignty, firmness, and historic leadership, which has set up this proud, firm, and struggling Iraq.

The paper says that old criminal Bush has tried all his methods, used all his tools, and burned all his cards in the region, but he has been unable to harm Iraq's will and firmness.

The paper affirms that Bush has realized the extent and scope of his defeat before Iraq and its leader. This is because Iraq now stands as the symbol of peoples' will, and Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn stands as the leader of the good faithful gathering among the Arab nation, Islamic peoples, and mankind in general.

Concluding its article, the paper stresses that the temporary, elderly, tenant of the White House will lay down his weapons. He will be unable to use any new weapons, because all his weapons have become old, rusty, and ineffective before Iraq's comprehensive firmness.

U.S. 'Allowing Iran To Occupy' UAE Islands

JN2609204292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Sep 92

[From the "Spotlights on News" program]

[Text] The U.S. Administration did not budge and its forces did not intercept the Iranian warships which occupied Abu Musa Island and which prevented an Emirian ship carrying Arab nationals from reaching the island. There is no doubt that the U.S. Government wants to achieve several goals by allowing Iran to occupy these strategic islands, which are located near the Strait of Hormuz and on the trade route passing through the Arabian Gulf.

Among these goals is giving Iran the old role of the Gulf police, who will work to secure and protect America's interests in particular and those of the colonialist West in general. The second goal is to make the Gulf states feel that their security is threatened by Iran and that they need a permanent protection. This, in turn, will necessitate the presence of a large-scale military force from the colonialist Western states. The third goal is that America wants the Gulf emirates to purchase more weapons to protect themselves from Iranian threats.

America and its Western allies are not concerned over the occupation of an Arab land or threats to an Arab land's security. They are only interested in securing their interests in any way. Therefore, giving Iran the role of the Gulf police and allowing it to occupy the Arab islands are viewed as a reward for protecting Western interests.

For its part, Iran has exceeded all limits, especially after it reassured itself about America's position and its support, at least secretly, for its occupation of the Arab islands. Iran is insisting that the islands are Iranian land. It even said that Bahrain is Iranian land. This was stated last week by the Iranian Majlis speaker and Iranian regime's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who disclosed Iran's clear ambitions in the Arabian Gulf region.

Although the Arab League has rejected Iran's decision to occupy the Arab islands, Iran attacked the Arab decision. As a result, the United Arab Emirates has begun a large-scale diplomatic campaign both in the Arab and international arenas to gain support and persuade Iran of the need to withdraw from the Arab islands. Yet, Iran replied to these efforts by declaring, through its air force commander, that it would shoot down any plane flying over Abu Musa Island, as it is Iranian land. Moreover, it asked everyone planning to enter the island to get an entry visa issued by Iran.

Developments at Peace Talks Considered

Cabinet To Hear 'Upbeat' Report

TA2709092292 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Sep 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] At the cabinet session on Wednesday, the heads of the delegations to the bilateral talks will deliver an upbeat report about the latest round of talks and about the chances of making progress in the next round of talks scheduled to open in Washington on 21 October.

Political sources in Jerusalem stated last night that constant progress has been made in the talks with the Syrians with regard to their willingness to define the "essence of peace" according to Israel's parameters. Moreover, in the last round of talks the Syrians agreed to talk about a "peace treaty" and stated to the international media that they would also be willing to discuss the ingredients of peace, such as normalization, open borders, etc.

The sources went on to say that although in the plenum meetings the Syrians continue to make an arrangement conditional on similar arrangements with the other delegations, signs are increasing that they would be willing to soften their position on this issue as well.

The sources believe that upon the opening of the next round of talks, Israel will have to define the extent of its willingness to withdraw from the Golan Heights, once Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's conditions for a substantial discussion on territorial subjects are met.

The sources noted that a great deal of progress had been made with the Palestinians in the last two days of the talks. They pointed to the concluding remarks made by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, who said that "encouraging progress has been made, which gives rise to hope."

Jerusalem's hopes stem from the fact that the Palestinians gave up their demand that Israel recognize that Resolution 242 applies also to the interim arrangements, as well as from their agreement that a small team discuss the formulation of a joint agenda.

The sources asserted that the differences over the agenda have been narrowed. The Palestinians persist in their demand that a subcommittee be set up to deal with human rights in the territories. Israel is now willing to comply with this demand on the condition that the Palestinians agree to the establishment of another subcommittee dealing the essence of the interim arrangement.

The next round of talks will start on Wednesday, 21 October, and will last until Thursday, 29 October. After a 10-day interval, the talks will resume for another two weeks on 9 November, following the U.S. presidential elections.

Jerusalem is somewhat uncertain about the U.S. intentions during the 10-day interval. It is assumed that State Department officials will use this time to explore the possibility of bridging the gaps, but it is unclear whether they will make a serious effort to this effect. Although Jerusalem believes that the Syrians would like to score a declarative achievement before the U.S. elections, U.S. Administration officials apparently do not think such a development could help the President on the eve of the elections.

Subcommittees Formed With Palestinians

TA2709090392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Israel will agree to the Palestinian delegation's demand to discuss human rights in the territories during the next round of talks in Washington. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz says that Israel's new readiness indicates progress was also achieved in the talks with the Palestinians.

Up until now, all the talk focused on the progress made in the negotiations with the Syrians. The delegations have returned from Washington, and political sources have also expressed optimism regarding the talks with the Palestinian delegation. Progress has been made on this track as well, they noted. The explanation given is that the Palestinians felt pressured by the tempo of the discussions with the Syrians. At the same time, they are discouraged by their unsuccessful attempts to introduce elements of the permanent arrangement at this point. The talks at the delegation level are now being replaced by discussions in the framework of subcommittees. The political sources allude to statements made by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, who spoke of what he called encouraging progress.

From the very beginning, Israeli officials asserted that establishing subcommittees dealing with the small print would constitute tangible progress. Now, there is talk of four or five such committees that will convene during the next round of talks in Washington on 21 October. The most interesting of these is the subcommittee on human rights in the territories. The Palestinians constantly demanded that this issue be discussed. Israel expressed reservations and refused to agree, certainly not at this stage of the peace talks. Now, it appears that the sensitive issue of human rights in the territories will be discussed during the next round of talks, and three or four additional subcommittees will focus on other aspects of autonomy: judicial affairs, the parameters of self-government, and the principles of the interim arrangements. The delegation heads briefed Prime Minister Rabin over the weekend, prior to an intensive series of discussions that will be held in Israel to prepare for the next round of talks in Washington.

Rabin Alludes to Personal 'Red Lines' on Golan

TA2509145092 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] "I have red lines of my own on the Golan Heights. They are not for publication. Even the cabinet does not know what they are. Except for me, no one knows what my red lines are." These remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a meeting with Neve Ativ settlers on 23 September. A protocol of the talk reveals that Rabin said categorically that he does not intend to repeat the Sinai withdrawal model.

Rabin was asked during the meeting about the idea of leasing the Golan from Syria. Rabin: "Why should I offer to lease it? It would be tantamount to granting them (the Syrians) sovereignty over the Golan, and I am not granting sovereignty."

Replying to another question, Rabin told the settlers that they can proceed to invest in their businesses. "You go on and build and feel as if nothing was happening. You can see we are not holding up any budgets."

At the same time, when asked by the settlers whether Israel will withdraw from Mt. Hermon, Rabin refused to make a categorical statement: "There are many important things, including Mt. Hermon. But this is not the place for declarations."

Al-Husayni Discusses Talks, Urges 'Arafat Apology

TA2709091392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Sep 92 p A4

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the Palestinian advisory council to the negotiating team, spoke before an audience of dozens at East Jerusalem's al-Hakawati Theater on 25 September. Al-Husayni claimed that the budgetary deficits and financial difficulties of many Palestinian institutions in the territories mostly stem from the same factors responsible for the PLO's financial woes. Al-Husayni asserted that this crisis could be surmounted. All that was necessary was that Yasir 'Arafat apologize to the Arab countries and admit that the pro-Iraqi stance he adopted during the Gulf War was a mistake. 'Arafat should appeal to the Arab countries, and especially Saudi Arabia, to stop settling accounts at the Palestinians' expense and ask them to send financial aid. [passage omitted]

The critical tone against 'Arafat was also apparent in other statements al-Husayni made while clarifying his basic positions on the peace process. For example, al-Husayni referred to the establishment of the Palestinian police force. In recent months, there has been a contradiction between al-Husayni's position in support of the formation of a strong police force as soon as the Palestinians get self-government, and 'Arafat's rejection of this, which said that an international force must first be stationed in the territories, with this force only later gradually transferring its responsibilities to a local force.

Al-Husayni defended the creation of a force numbering at least 18,000 policemen. He said that during the interim stage the Palestinians would not have an army to back the police force. Al- Husayni claimed that the consequent law and order vacuum would have to be filled, or else criminal elements from Israel or abroad might exploit the situation. Such a situation, he said, would permit Israel to claim that the Palestinian administration was incapable of controlling the territories.

Besides, al-Husayni added, a large police force would guarantee the representation of all political currents, and preclude any attempt to turn into a repressive mechanism.

He noted that the PLO would not move to Jerusalem and the territories during the interim period, although this position may change. Nevertheless, he stressed that the Palestinian delegation was accountable to the PLO and briefed it on all its actions.

Al-Husayni explained that in the bilateral negotiations, the Palestinians were demanding that their administration be awarded legislative authorities within the geographical boundaries defined by Security Council Resolution 242. They also demanded that these boundaries include all state lands and lands expropriated by Israel, including settlements. However, there were issues on which the Palestinians were ready to create joint frameworks with Israel, and also include Jordan and Syria. For example, the Palestinians would be ready to discuss with Israel the establishment of a joint committee to discuss the areas where Israeli army camps would be stationed during the interim period.

Addressing the differences between the Palestinians and Israel, al-Husayni likened them to a 10-story building the Palestinians seek to construct at the end of the peace process. They want all the building materials now, but Israel is only willing to give them enough material for one floor, and that is something the Palestinians would not accept. Al-Husayni said that if Israel stuck to its positions, the Palestinians would choose the appropriate time to demand that the United States, Russia, and Europe intervene in the negotiations to break the deadlock.

Responding to a question about the possibility of Syria signing a separate agreement with Israel and abandoning the Palestinians, al-Husayni said that Syrian policy was focused on raising its value in the eyes of the U.S. Administration and proving to the United States—and to Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians—that Damascus holds all the cards to the region's future. That is also the case, he feels, regarding progress in the negotiations between Syria and Israel, whose main purpose, as far as Syria is concerned, is to signal to the Palestinians that everything must be coordinated with Damascus.

Rabin on Meeting With Meretz Ministers

TA2709124092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin met the three Meretz ministers this morning. Rabin told the Meretz leaders that in light of Education Minister Shulamit Aloni's remarks, he would have a hard time holding the coalition together if the present situation continued. There were no warnings or statements regarding Shulamit Aloni's future in the cabinet. Our party affairs correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports on the meeting, which probably put an end to the latest crisis.

[Begin recording] [Yehimovich] Although it was a tough and serious meeting, this crisis went out with a whimper, considering the angry forces it had generated. As soon as the meeting began, the Meretz ministers, accompanied by Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid, the faction chairman, protested the fact that the meeting had been described as a discussion of Minister Aloni's continued office in the cabinet. For his part, the prime minister chose to go to the heart of the matter. He told the Meretz officials that if these crises continued he would have difficulty holding the coalition together. Minister Aloni was relatively quiet during the meeting and clearly prefers to keep her mouth completely shut.

[Aloni] A happy New Year. We have excellent spokesmen such as our faction chairman.

[Yehimovich] How long will you maintain this silence?

[Aloni] I will be the one to decide that.

[Yehimovich] During the meeting itself, Aloni admitted that her remark on the Golan Heights was a slip of the tongue, as she put it. The other ministers clarified that they would not countenance a situation in which Aloni was a minister-on-probation in the government, or under any sort of warning. They also said that some elements were constantly laying in wait for her in order to inflate her statements and purposely create a crisis. However, even they admitted that there had been several mishaps recently and recognized the need to improve things. Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said that the prime minister did not issue any reprimands.

[Tzaban] There was some criticism. He said it would be difficult to hold the coalition together like this. There was no reprimand in the usual sense of the word, nor was there any warning, but rather an expression of concern that things could not continue this way.

[Yehimovich] Did you in any way promise that such statements would not be made in future?

[Tzaban] All of us, including Shulamit Aloni, said that we would draw the proper conclusions regarding future developments. However, one cannot issue promises on these issues because political life is very dynamic.

[Yehimovich] MK Yosi Sarid, the chairman of the Meretz Knesset faction, said that they must not endanger the coalition.

[Sarid] In my opinion, the prime minister expressed his displeasure. I did not hear any reprimand or warning, nor did I see him pull out a yellow card, and certainly not a red one.

[Unidentified correspondent] But you were told that she could lose her job if these statements continued.

[Sarid] I did not hear such a sentence, nor anything even remotely similar. I think that the meeting was quite convivial and constructive. The Meretz ministers, for whom I served as a mouthpiece on this occasion, stressed that there is no other government for us. We think that this is the best government and the best coalition. Therefore, it must be preserved and we must avoid any act or statement that could, God forbid, shake this coalition.

[Yehimovich] This crisis then, appears to have been resolved. One can assume, however, that it will not be the last one, even though it at least appears that Education Minister Shulamit Aloni intends to do her very best to keep quiet.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he did not deliver an ultimatum to the Meretz ministers that they had to stop Minister Aloni from making statements to the press or else she would lose her cabinet post. Rabin said that the problem was not in Meretz' positions but rather in the things Minister Aloni said.

[Rabin] I clarified to them that the problem did not lie with Meretz, but basically, with the senior Meretz representative in the government, with Minister Shulamit Aloni. The problem is not with Meretz' positions, which are well known. This party ran for election on the basis of its positions and viewpoints. It has three representatives in the cabinet. The problem rests with one of them in the sense of to what extent can she both carry out her job, and censor her statements on religion and state, as well as on political issues. She admits having had a slip of the tongue on the political aspect. Of course, she also has her own positions on the other issues. On the basis of our meeting today, and in light of Meretz' stated desire for the continued tenure of this government.... [changes thought] They understand the problematical aspect of Meretz and an ultra-Orthodox party serving in the same coalition but want to continue this partnership. I told them that I accept their good faith but that they must realize that it will be hard to keep the government together if things continue this way.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did you give them an ultimatum or was this really just the friendly chat you are describing?

[Rabin] I did not engage in ultimatums. I do not believe in ultimatums. If one has reached the conclusion that it is impossible to maintain the government on the basis of

the present coalition, then one must take appropriate action. The purpose of the meeting was Minister Aloni's statements and we subsequently focused on them. It did not involve Meretz or the other Meretz ministers. I imagine that they also held an internal debate before the meeting. I made it clear to them that if things continued as they have till now, it would be impossible to guarantee the future of the present coalition. [end recording]

NRP Repudiates Sharon-Led Right-Wing Group

TA2609085392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] Knesset faction will not be a member of the group called One Israel, the lobby the right-wing movements have established under the leadership of Ari'el Sharon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that members of the NRP faction leveled harsh criticism at Hanan Porat, a faction member, for bringing the NRP into the new movement without authorization to do so. The NRP fears that a partnership with movements such as Moledet will portray young NRP followers as extremists. NRP faction chairman Yig'al Bibi has demanded that Hanan Porat stop speaking on behalf of the NRP as a member of One Israel.

Knesset Member Porat said in response that a partnership with the right-wing movements is only natural and that only small-minded people take party interests into consideration at this time.

Defense Official on Syrian Chemical Arms Threat

TA2509115992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Peace is being discussed in Washington, but—quote—the defense establishment should regard the Syrian chemical threat with utmost seriousness. This remark was made by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur. He said that the Syrian arms race continues these very days, in parallel with the peace process. Gur spoke with our correspondent Netan'el Semrik:

[Begin recording] [Semrik] Recently, the Syrians have been purchasing tanks in Czechoslovakia, self-propelled guns in Bulgaria, Scuds in North Korea, and—as the international media have recently published—Syria has been buying raw materials for the production of chemical weapons and producing them itself. Deputy Defense Minister Gur made it clear that Syria continues its armament process even now.

[Gur] They believe that, in parallel with the political process, it is important that they stay strong. Perhaps this is because they want to make sure that though the political process continues, they still have the military option.

[Semrik] Deputy Minister Gur stressed that Israel will continue to take action to stop the production of those chemical weapons.

[Gur] There is no need to panic, but we—those in charge of the defense establishment—must certainly view this with utmost seriousness. [end recording]

Defense Attache on Helicopter Deal With U.S.

TA2709060292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The United States is transferring $700 million worth of military equipment to Israel, including Black Hawk and Apache helicopters. The deal follows discussions between Israeli and U.S. officials on how to compensate Israel following the recent decision by Washington to sell 72 advanced F-15 jets to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Israel's defense attache in Washington, Giyora Rom, told reporter Mark Weiss that he does not see the arms transfer as a direct compensation for the U.S. sale of F-15 jets to Riyadh, but rather part of the ongoing U.S. commitment to maintain Israel's military edge.

[Begin recording] [Rom] Well, we do not look at it as compensation because we look at Israel not vis a vis or versus Saudi Arabia. We look at Israel as sometimes might be facing some coalition, or any coalition of hostile countries. And in that sense, we should make sure that we have the right means, so logically it happens immediately after the decision about the sale. But that does not compensate the sale as such. That should give us some assistance to keep that qualitative edge.

[Weiss] You are confident that this will maintain Israel's qualtitative military edge?

[Rom] Well not only the scope of these talks, but there are other means and ways in which the United States will support Israel to keep its qualitative edge, no doubt. Well, you can look at the whole scope of relations between the United States and Israel, beginning from the annual military assistance through the amount of money that we can use in Israel, in shekels, and technological cooperation. So there are a lot of means in which the United States can assist Israel, and in fact it does it.

[Weiss] How significant is this latest decision by the Americans?

[Rom] Well, it's very significant because it ratified the President's decision and obligation to keep on—and keeping Israeli qualitative edge. In a very short time, means were taken to carry it out. [end recording]

25-Year Ban Lifted on Arabic Daily in Territories

TA2709091892 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Sep 92 p 4

[Report by Muhammad Khalayla]

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur has informed Knesset Member Tawfiq Zayyad, chairman of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality],

that the security authorities and the Civil Administration decided to lift the ban on distribution of AL-ITTIHAD (Israel Communist Party's Arabic-language mouthpiece) in the territories.

The decision came in response to Zayyad's appeal to the defense minister to remove a 25-year-old ban on the distribution of the paper in the territories. AL-ITTIHAD staffers said they appreciated the Defense Ministry's decision and are preparing to distribute the paper in October. The paper's management decided to sell the paper at a special reduced price of 1 Israeli shekel in view of the dire economic situation of the inhabitants of the territories.

AL-ITTIHAD is the only Arabic-language daily published in Israel, following the closure of AL-ANBA' seven years ago by then Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

Candidates Vying for Kasrawan Seats Announced

NC2709080392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] A total of 26 candidates will bid for the elections that will be held in Kasrawan on 11 October. They are: Ghasan Kasrawan al-Khazin; Rushayd Salih al-Khazin; Joseph Qazhaya al- 'Alam; Elie Yusuf Zuwayn; Iskandar Michel Sfayr; Dr. Ahkam Salvador Abu-Khatir Zughayb; Muna Mikhayil Hubaysh; Nazih Na'im Shalalah; Ramiz Habib al-Qazzi; Ilyas Shukrallah al-Khazin; Maurice Ruhana Fahd; Antoine Yusuf Karam; Faris Nuhad Buwayz; Kamil Antoine Ziyadah; Antoine Jiryis 'Aqiqi; Antoine Rashid Sa'adah; Kamil Alfonse Kinyanus; Henry Rashid Sfayr; Dr. Kamal Mudawwar; Shawqi Fayiz al-Haj; Elie Milad 'Assaf; Haykal Yusuf 'Aqiqi; Nasib Adib Zuwayn; Ilyas Ni'mah Buwari; Germanos Ni'mah al-Turk; and Mansur Fu'ad al-Bun.

The 26 candidates will compete for five Maronite seats. A total of 78,888 registered voters will cast their ballots at 130 polling stations.

The registered voters are as follows: Maronites, 70,827; Sunnis, 230; Shiites, 935; Druze, 8; Greek Orthodox, 1,609; Greek Catholics, 2,006; Protestants, 170; Latins, 420; Armenian Orthodox, 1,360; Armenian Catholics, 809; Syriac Orthodox, 175; Syriac Catholics, 265; Chaldeans, 65; Musawis [Jews], 4; and others, 5.

Buwayz To Run in Kasrawan Election

NC2609170092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Speaking at a news conference today, former Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz confirmed the possibility that there will be more than one election list contesting the Kasrawan elections. Buwayz pointed out that he will run as part of an election list that he will form soon.

Buwayz said that boycott is not a useful weapon, adding that the size of the boycott in Kasrawan will be insufficient to discredit the elections. Buwayz said that he will run in the Kasrawan elections in order to maintain an active role in that political, economic, and cultural stronghold.

'Awn Cited on Kasrawan 'Farce'

NC2709134292 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] General Michel 'Awn said those who boycotted elections before are the ones who are nominating themselves today and looking for a way to contain and control the boycotting masses. 'Awn described the Kasrawan elections as a farce. He believes the boycott will continue with greater intensity and force. He called on the Lebanese to completely abandon participating in the government.

Opposition Bloc Issues Statement

NC2609070192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] The Kasrawan opposition bloc, which is boycotting the elections, issued a statement following a meeting in Bkirki last night. The statement reiterated determination to reject and boycott the elections, calling for the cancellation of earlier election results.

The bloc reiterated its insistence on seven demands: The withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armies from the homeland; the cancellation of earlier parliamentary elections; to enable immigrants to vote in their country of residence and to enable those who emigrated for political reasons to return to their homeland; to tackle the issue of the displaced people seriously and to invite them to return to their homes; and to view the present elections as a threat to national reconciliation.

The bloc stressed that no free elections reflecting the will of the people can be held unless these demands are met.

Communist Secretary General's Resignation Accepted

NC2709113392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee accepted Secretary General George Hawi's resignation. The committee asked his deputy, Faruq Dahruj, to carry out the duties of the party secretary general and use all his authority.

The committee called for an extraordinary conference to discuss the party's political plan and organizational structure, change the party name, and elect new leadership committees.

Fadlallah Criticizes Remarks by U.S. Ambassador

NC2609074592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] The U.S. Administration is maintaining its media campaign against the mujahidin. After a persistent demand for disarming the resistance in the south, without any reference to an Israeli withdrawal, the U.S. ambassador in Beirut demanded an end to Lebanon's economic boycott of the Zionist entity.

Reacting to this, Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah remarked that contemporary international atheism is launching a political and cultural media campaign against the oppressed. He said: Many people talk about the Americanized reality of the world and say that the people should deal with this reality and demonstrate obedience to the American master if they want security and safety.

Fadlallah remarked that the advocates of this concept represent modern international atheism, which both the media and politics try to force on us.

His eminence added: Political media now tend to mock those demanding freedom and justice. He called for standing up to this U.S. campaign—which seeks to bring about our failure at the media, political, and cultural levels—so that we will enjoy stability. They want to destroy our position and our capabilities, he said, adding that the question is: Can we endure psychologically?

His Eminence Fadlallah stressed the need for Lebanon and the Arab and Muslim world to support the Lebanese Islamic resistance.

Reacting to the U.S. ambassador's call for ending the economic boycott of Israel, Hizballah issued a statement which said: With the same impudence in which he demanded that the resistance weapons be withdrawn, the U.S. ambassador now demands that the economic boycott of Israel be terminated. In both demands, the ambassador tries to insinuate that the problem lies with the Lebanese side. He thus overlooks clear and basic facts, including the continued Zionist occupation of the land and its continued aggression—the most recent of which was yesterday's aggression against the township of Kafr Rumman, which involved peaceful people, their properties, and livelihood.

The statement adds: This U.S. stand is part of a policy which takes people's feelings and dignity lightly and employs all methods to serve the Zionist enemy and its objectives. Foremost among these objectives is normalizing relations between this enemy and the Arab states.

The Hizballah statement continues: We ask the U.S. ambassador, since he demands an end to the economic boycott, what about the hundreds of Lebanese who are being held in enemy jails, the recurrent attacks, and the occupation itself—particularly since Washington keeps repeating that it supports Lebanon's sovereignty and independence?

The statement adds: This U.S. demand is not worth commenting on. The only comment it deserves is that which uncovers the true face of the U.S. policy, which provides continuous assistance and support for Zionists and ignores the tragic consequences of occupation and aggression. This is clear in the U.S. description of developments in the south as a violent cycle and its call on both the criminal and the victim to restrain themselves. This call reveals the depravity which seeks to distribute the responsibility equally between the resistance and the occupation. They even blame the resistance when they call for disarming it, while ignoring the weapons of the Israeli agents' militia and the occupation itself, the statement says.

The statement emphasizes that this demand is rejected because it represents interference in Lebanese affairs. It stresses the need for the Lebanese Government to convey a clear, public, and solid stand to the Americans and to protest such conduct, which harms the Lebanese people's dignity and provokes them.

The statement concludes: We emphasize that any type of normalization or dealing with the enemy will be rejected, no matter how trivial it may be, because it would imply recognition of the occupation and disregard for a problem which can never be resolved through negotiations or bilateral initiatives.

Al-Maqdisi Comments on World Bank, IMF Meetings

NC2809084992 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Dr. Samir al-Maqdisi, minister of economy and trade, returned to Beirut last night after participating along with Finance Minister As'ad Diyab in World Bank and IMF meetings in Washington.

Al-Maqdisi said the visit was good, adding: Minister Diyab and I held intense meetings with the World Bank and IMF administration and officials concerned with Lebanese affairs. The World Bank issued a statement clarifying its great concern for Lebanon's reconstruction. Three delegations are expected to visit Lebanon. One came with me. A joint IMF-World Bank delegation will arrive on 5 October for consultations with government officials.

Al-Maqdisi added: We hope there will be success in the political issues, because with the success of these talks and the implementation of the government's economic program, creditor nations will be invited to Lebanon under IMF sponsorship.

World Bank Delegation Arrives for Two-Week Visit

NC2809080892 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] A World Bank delegation of 10 experts led by Yusuf Shuqayr arrived in Beirut last night for an approximately two-week visit to Lebanon.

The delegation head said the visit's aim is to pursue the program to rehabilitate infrastructure networks—water, sewage, telephones, buildings, and roads. He added: We are about to go into detail on extending a 150 million-dollar loan to Lebanon. God willing, we will agree that this fund should be allocated to these sectors.

UAE President Arrives for Visit 24 Sep

JN2409155092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], arrived in Damascus at 1330 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. President al-Asad was at the head of those who greeted the Emirian president at Damascus' international airport. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Zayid is accompanied by an official delegation including Shaykh Rashid Bin-Ahmad al-Mu'alla, Supreme Council member and Umm al-Qaywayn ruler; Shaykh Hamad Bin-Muhammad al-Sharqi, Supreme Council member and al-Fujayrah ruler; Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, the president's special adviser and personal representative; Major General Hammudah Bin-'Ali, minister of interior; Justice Minister Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-'Amran Turaym; Information and Culture Minister Khalfan Bin-Muhammad al-Rumi; Khamis Bati Rumaysh, head of the president's office; Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy head of the president's office; and Emirian Ambassador to Syria Khalifah Shahin al-Mari.

President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid held a meeting at Tishrin Palace. [passage omitted]

Holds Closed Meeting With al-Asad

JN2409180392 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, resumed their talks today in a closed meeting held at the People's Palace at 1930. The talks dealt with a host of issues related to the situation and developments in the region and the Gulf, as well as the efforts being exerted to tackle the current issues out of a concern for Arab interests.

Resumes Talks 25 Sep

JN2609053892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, resumed their talks in a closed meeting they held yesterday at the People's Palace.

During this meeting, they continued discussions concerning topics related to developments in the region, particularly in the Gulf, as well as efforts being made to deal with current issues in a way that serves the Arabs' interests and the region's security and stability.

Concludes Visit 26 Sep

JN2609170992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, concluded their talks in a meeting they held at noon today. During the meeting, they completed their discussion of the developments in the region and the situation in the Gulf.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan concluded his visit to the Syrian Arab Republic and departed Damascus at 1400 [1100 GMT] today.

President Hafiz al-Asad was at the head of those seeing him off at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Daily Views Visit of UAE President

JN2609062792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 26 Sep 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In its editorial, TISHRIN writes that Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafiz al- Asad fall within the context of exchanging views and addressing issues in the Arab and Gulf arenas in a manner that safeguards the interests of the Arab nation.

TISHRIN adds: Syria was the first to contain the dispute between the UAE and Iran over Abu Musa Island and prevent attempts to fish in troubled waters, in a manner that preserves the fraternal UAE's interests, promotes Arab-Islamic relations, and maintains cordial relations between the Gulf states and Iran—relations which are supposed to be an impregnable fence that supports Arab rights.

TISHRIN writes that Syrian efforts calmed down the situation and arranged for a meeting between UAE and Iranian officials, which all sincere people hope will find a solution to the dispute that enhances Islamic solidarity and bolsters the legitimacy of international law. It is absolutely unacceptable for Arabs and Muslims to differ at a time when enemies and covetous people are stepping up their efforts to break up Arab and Islamic ties, weaken each country, and bolster Israel's hegemony, considering the huge funds and advanced weapons it is receiving.

TISHRIN concludes: No doubt, Shaykh Zayid's visit and talks with President Hafiz al-Asad will contribute toward enhancing Arab solidarity and the efforts being made to effect joint Arab action. The visit will also contribute toward promoting fraternal bilateral relations, which are very strong, and will become even stronger.

Al-Shar' Meets UAE, Iranian Counterparts at UN

JN2509193692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today met separately with Rashid Bin-'Abdallah, foreign minister of the

United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akabar Velayati on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings in New York.

Discussion during both meetings focused on the ongoing dispute between the UAE and the Islamic Republic of Iran over Abu Musa Island and Syria's concern with solving this dispute through cordial, peaceful means and direct contacts that serve good neighborly relations and cooperation between the two Muslim countries; contribute to reinforcing Arab-Iranian relations; and achieve security and stability in the Gulf region.

Israel Urged To Think Before Aborting Talks

JN2509174892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The results of the sixth round of peace talks in Washington did not surprise observers following developments in the Middle East.

It was clear from the beginning that Rabin's government did not make the resolute decision to wage the battle of true peace and that it is pinning hopes on the possibility of dividing and weakening Arab ranks to conclude separate deals and partial settlements, which would cost Israel nothing more than a few concessions and would maintain its near-total control over the occupied Arab territories.

The fact is that the initiatives presented by the Arabs, foremost being that put forward by Syria, have embarrassed the rulers of Israel to a great extent. It became certain to the entire world that the Arabs are seekers of true and consecrated peace, that Syria—regarding intentions for peace, on which the Israelis have tried to cast doubt—was the first to submit practical proposals and a collection of principles which, if translated to reality, can be the basis for a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Many influential world parties and both the U.S. Democratic and Republican political parties have praised the Syrian proposals.

The sixth round ended without any tangible results. But the forthcoming seventh round requires the rulers of Israel to think deeply before wasting a unique opportunity to achieve peace in the Middle East, especially since it became clear to them that it is impossible to divide Arab ranks and conclude partial deals, which would only sow the seeds of new conflicts that might prove far more grave and dangerous.

The Arabs may not have achieved the just peace they have been aspiring for within the sixth round of talks. But they certainly won the world to the side of their just cause, and the ball is now in the Israeli court. The comprehensive peace sought by the Arabs is the same peace sought by the international community, including its many governments and peoples. No matter how much the Israelis maneuver or procrastinate, they cannot change facts or falsify events.

The UN Security Council resolutions, which were adopted as a basis for the peace process, reject acquiring territories by force or war, reject annexation and Judaization measures, and reject altering the features of the occupied territories as well as Israel's settlement policy. These resolutions also believe that full Israeli withdrawal and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights to achieve freedom and self-determination is the only road to realizing the desired peace.

The Arabs have frankly announced that they are seeking a comprehensive and true peace on all fronts and that they are willing be committed to all the requirements of a just settlement. It is not the Arabs' fault if the rulers of Israel close their eyes when they see that doing so would be in their interest. The entire world is aware of the Arabs' total willingness to seek a complete peace that would lead to stabilizing the Middle East and would realize right, justice, and amity in it.

Many voices were raised in Israel itself admitting that the Golan has been Syrian territory for time immemorial, that annexing this territory was a grave mistake, and that it is impossible to achieve peace without the return of the Golan and enabling the Palestinians to establish a true national authority rather than a bogus one.

We do not think that the whole international community, including all its countries and organizations, which is calling for the right to self-determination for the oppressed people, who only seek to build their future and prove their identity, rejects such a right for the Palestinian people.

Moreover, we do not think that the world, which has praised the Lebanese Government's serious steps to end the civil war, achieve reconciliation, reinforce the authority of constitutional institutions, and strengthen and deploy the national army in all areas, will allow Israel to continue occupying southern Lebanon under flimsy pretexts.

This is the era of peace, of ending conflicts, and of extinguishing all global hotbeds based on justice, principles, and equality. The world cannot condemn one country's occupation of neighboring countries and remain silent over the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories since 1967.

Hence, we say that the Arabs have accomplished a lot at the Washington talks. They proved their seriousness and response to international will and that Israel—whose rulers admitted that the plan for greater Israel is unrealistic and that it is impossible to achieve peace and maintain the occupation—must think much more before it deliberately seeks to abort the upcoming seventh round.

In the past, the Israelis used Syria as a pretext. So, Syria opened wide the doors to peace. Ultimately, the world must unanimously point at the party obstructing the peace process and adopt measures to secure the restoration of rights.

Afghanistan

Rabbani, Delegation Depart for Pakistan, Iran

LD2509174992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, left Kabul this morning for Pakistan at the head of a high-ranking delegation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, at the invitation of Ghulam Eshaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. [passage omitted]

The following officials are accompanying Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and president of the Islamic State, in this visit:

Esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Shah Fazli, president of the Supreme Court.

Esteemed Mir Hoseyn Sadeqi, founder of the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami] of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Esteemd Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Javid, minister of planning.

Esteemed 'Abdol Rahim Karimi, minister of construction affairs.

Esteemed Mohammad Na'em Kochi, minister of border affairs.

Esteemed Rahmatollah Wahedyar, minister of returnees affairs.

Esteemed Dr. Zabehollah Eltezam, first deputy minister of commerce.

Esteemed Amanollah, private secretary to the president of the state.

Esteemed Shamsolhaq Aryanfar, general head of radio-television and Afghan film.

Esteemed 'Abdollah Yahya Tarzi, head of the protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A press team is also accompanying esteemed Rabbani at this visit.

According to another report it is scheduled that Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation, after a three-day visit to Pakistan, will pay a visit to Iran at the invitation of Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Rabbani Approves Five New Cabinet Ministers

LD2509172792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] According to a resolution passed by the Leadership Council and approved by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and president of the Islamic State, the following appointments have been made to the Cabinet of the Islamic State of Afghanistan:

Esteemed Dr. 'Abdol Wahed Sorabi as minister of commerce.

Esteemed Engineer Mohammad Yaqub La'li as minister of mines and industries.

Esteemed Mowlawi Ahmad Nazar Balkhi as minister of social affairs.

Esteemed Sayd Eshaq Gowhari as minister of revival and rural development.

Esteemed Dr. Yaqub Barakzai as minister of public health.

Hekmatyar Accuses Regime of Breaking Pledges

LD2609151192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Brother Hekmatyar said to the members of the Peace Council: The opposite side not only has not carried out its pledges but has embarked on new sedition. Brother Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, at a meeting with the Peace Council, said yesterday afternoon that since the announcement of cease-fire our trenches and airport have repeatedly been attacked. Brother Hekmatyar added [words indistinct] we have no objections regarding the peace delegation and we want the resolution of the issue. We are ready to take any reasonable step to prevent fighting. Brother Hekmatyar made clear to the peace delegation that he had not yet said anything to anyone against the Mojahedin of Jamiat. However, anybody who holds our party membership card in Kabul gets arrested.

Brother Hekmatyar added: One month has elapsed since the cease-fire agreement but not even one step has been taken toward the implementation of the accord. However, Article 2 of the accord says that the militias are to be evicted from Kabul within one week. The leader of the Hezb said: If the Peace Council finds with us any armed unit from the previous regime, they must be shown to me so that I can hand them over in that very place. Our policy is to grant asylum to the members of the previous regime.

Brother Hekmatyar in his conversation said: I told Rabbani to move away from the communists and militias and to call dections. I will then accept the government and hand over all governmental affairs to this government.

The Hezb leader told the Peace Council: They can do nothing else [words indistinct]. Brother Hekmatyar pointed out to them: Not only does the opposite side not fulfill its pledges, but it works on creating new sedition. The government has sent money to Laghman and appointed a governor who is not able to go there. The governor of Gardez does not even have a room to work in. A refugee was appointed governor of Kapisa.

In Zabol the situation is the same [words indistinct] except for causing problems and sedition.

Brother Hekmatyar told the Peace Council: It is difficult for me to trust the opposite side; it does not keep any of its promises. In Paghman Rabbani promised me that the Hezb-e Eslami prisoners would be released but no step has been taken so far. Moreover, they once again bombarded Shendand airport yesterday.

Addressing Commander Shamalay, head of the peace delegation, Brother Hekmatyar asked: What has the opposite side done to implement the cease-fire resolution?

Commander Shamalay replied: We are still bound by our decisions and we have pointed out their violations to Rabbani. Commander Shamalay added: They have promised us and said: You will hear the news of major changes on Tuesday evening.

Brother Hekmatyar responded: Anyway, give them until Tuesday; we will see what are they going to do. Commander Shamalay then said to Brother Hekmatyar: We have already told Rabbani that we can no longer wait and we will get a bad reputation for waiting too long. Rabbani asked us to give him until Tuesday.

At the end, Commander Shamalay gave assurances and said: If they continue to disregard their promises as before, we will remain faithful to you in accordance with our pledges; under these circumstances we will fire the first shot at them.

India

Ministers Charge Pakistan Supporting Terrorism

Bhatia's Remarks

BK2709090492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, today charged Pakistan of stepping up support to terrorist activities in Punjab and Kashmir. Addressing a function in New Delhi today, he said that Islamabad is engaged in a low-cost war against India. He assured the Punjab migrants of all help from the government to mitigate their sufferings.

Defense Minister's Comments

BK2509161692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has said that the prime minister's call for a moratorium on raising all contentious issues for three years should be respected by all. Speaking at a function in Bombay, Mr. Pawar criticized the opposition for diverting people's attention from the current economic crisis by raising religious issues. Mr. Pawar warned Pakistan against its attempt to create disturbances in India by training terrorists.

Faliero at UN on Nuclear Issue, Security Council

BK2609034492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] India is calling for the creation of a new international order free from war, poverty, illiteracy, and injustice. This will then bring lasting peace and security to the world. Addressing the UN General Assembly in New York, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faliero, pleaded for a convention on nonuse of nuclear weapons and a verifiable freeze on the production of nuclear materials for manufacturing weapons. He said these tips would usher in peace and prosperity in the world.

Calling for expansion of the Security Council, he said it should reflect the increased membership of the world body to be effective. The minister spoke of the dangers of terrorism sponsored from across the borders. Speaking about economic reforms undertaken by several developing countries including India, Mr. Faliero said these will have little effect unless the external economic environment becomes conducive to growth and development.

Security Council Seat Being Sought

BK2609080492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] India will formally stake its claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council when it is expanded. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, departed from his prepared text while addressing the UN General Assembly yesterday to emphasize the point. He stressed the need that along with economic criterion, other relevant issues should also be given due weightage during the expansion of the council. Japan and Germany are demanding a permanent seat on the basis of their economic strength. At present, the council has 15 members, including five permanent ones.

Commentary Views Claim to Seat

BK2709044492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Commentary by Prof. (?Gupta) of the Center of Policy Research—read by announcer]

[Text] India's claim for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council is just. It's formal application on the floor of the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly on Friday was timely, also necessary. It does not mean India will be made a permanent member of the UN Security Council next year. The Chinese delegate at the recent NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit in Jakarta made it clear that a radical revision of the UN Charter will come not too soon nor will it be too easy. However, expanding the membership of the UN Security Council from the current 15 to 20 or so has been floating in the international air for quite some time.

Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, minister of state for foreign affairs, who departed from the written text of a speech to register the claim, remarked that factors other than military and economic power must also determine which countries are to be added to the number of permanent members of the council. In the 50s and 60s, when the membership of the United Nations was about to cross 100, a demand arose to expand the Security Council. The demand had a special edge because the Perm Five, as the veto-holding permanent members came to be known, were constantly at loggerheads and totally polarized in the Cold War. But now the world has changed beyond recognition. The Cold War is over. The USSR and its European allies have disappeared into history. The United Nations has come to the center of international security. The place was its from the beginning, but was denied to it by the Cold War.

Regional tensions and conflict rather than a third world war are now the concern of the international community. It is informed and expanded. India's claim gets support from the European press as well as in the Japanese media and in a lot of developing nations. The new permanent members will not enjoy the veto power. There is no possibility of the veto power to be abolished because those who have the veto will veto any proposals to do away with the veto. The secretary-general will have to initiate behind the scenes diplomacy to create a consensus among the Perm Five about expanding the number of permanent members. This will take time and a lot of superfine diplomacy by many countries, including India. Expansion of the number of Security Council members, including permanent members, will be the first step towards democratization of the United Nations. This too is a global demand reiterated only the other day by the NAM summit in Jakarta.

Prime Minister Rao Departs for Paris 28 Sep

BK2809040092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has left New Delhi for Paris on a three-day official visit to France. Earlier, he was given a warm send-off at Hyderabad House by his cabinet colleagues; the Assam chief minister, Mr. Saikia; the three service chiefs; and other high dignitaries. In a brief chat with newsmen before leaving, Mr. Rao said that it is a normal bilateral visit. Asked whether India and France will extend cooperation in exploring planets, like Mars, he said both countries should see what they can do together. He said that he expects the visit will be a fruitful one.

Mr. Rao will have wide-ranging talks with the French president, Mr. Mitterrand; the prime minister, Mr. Pierre Beregovoy; and other leaders to strengthen bilateral cooperation in political, economic, and high-technology areas. Our correspondent reports that the prime minister will apprise the French leaders about the economic reforms initiated in India and the favorable climate created for foreign investment. The prime minister will also meet representatives of French industry and trade.

Commentary on Agenda, Import of Visit

BK2809052192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Commentary by Sushil Chopra, special correspondent of All India Radio: "Prime Minister's Visit to France"]

[Text] The prime minister's visit to France beginning from today is significant. It is important in the sense that after economic reforms in India no serious effort has been made to explain our liberalized policy to attract French investment. The visit was planned quite early. When the French president, Mr. Francois Mitterrand, came to India in 1989, the idea of the Indian prime minister visiting France came up at that time. When Mr. Narasimha Rao made a stopover in Paris last November on his way to and back from the G-15 summit at Caracas in Venezuela, it was then decided that Mr. Rao will go to France this month. During a brief meeting between Mr. Rao and President Mitterrand, it was felt that the trend of decline of bilateral cooperation in the political and economic areas visible in the last two years should be reversed and Indo- French relations restored to the level it used to be a few years back.

There is vast scope for joint ventures and transfer of technology from France, but the potential has not been tapped so far. France is an important source of sophisticated technology not only in the industrial field but in defense and space technology also. Economic cooperation between India and France has been noticeable in areas like nuclear energy and space communications. In fact, France is more pragmatic in transfer of sophisticated technology than many other European countries.

Although no agenda has been fixed for talks between the prime minister and President Mitterrand, the two leaders are expected to discuss matters of mutual interest. The issue of supply of enriched uranium by France for Tarapur Nuclear Power Plant may also come up for discussion. The agreement to supply the enriched uranium by France is expiring next year. India will also explore the possibility of obtaining from France cryogenic rocket engines and other vital components which are required by our space research projects.

During his stay in Paris, Mr. Narasimha Rao will be visiting a research institution working in application of solar and other nonconventional sources of energy. An exhibition has been arranged for him where research and industrial application of solar energy will be displaced by some French companies engaged in this job. The prime minister is also scheduled to meet French industrialists and businessmen. Coinciding with the visit of Mr. Rao, the Indo-French Joint Business Council will be having its annual meeting in Paris at the same time.

Iran

Acting Navy Commander Denies Submarine Purchase

LD2709154192 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1415 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Expounding on the Navy's military capability, Rear Admiral Mohtaj, the acting Navy commander, referred to incessant efforts made by the Navy forces' committed personnel and experts to reconstruct equipment damaged during the imposed war.

Mohtaj also said that in addition to increasing the Navy forces' military capability and defense preparedness, the Navy forces have also conducted several research projects, among which the successful building of Midget submarines can be mentioned.

Meanwhile, Mohtaj described as baseless the Western mass media's propaganda concerning the submarine purchase from Russia.

He further confirmed that Iran thinks of nothing but regional peace and stability, adding that Iran's active regional presence will be in the interest of the balance of power.

Brigadier Generals Cited on Logistic Capabilities

LD2609153292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] The Army is currently capable of constructing, repairing, reconstructing, and reconditioning all of the world's most advanced military equipment.

Brigadier General Il Arastu Towhidi, deputy in charge of the Joint Armed Forces Logistics, who spoke to reporters today to mark holy Defense Week and the Day of Defense and Reconstruction, said: Constructing a number of logistical warships, helicopter and military aircraft—as well as reconstructing the damaged Sabalan warship—are among the cases that adequately prove the Army experts' and technical personnel's capability.

Brigadier General Towhidi added: The Army Ground Forces are currently implementing a number of development projects at a cost of more than 30 billion rials, some of which are 90 percent complete.

He added: Iran's Army will also take part in constructing infrastructural projects such as the implementation of the second section of the Sarakhs-Mashhad and Kerman Zahedan huge railroad projects at a cost of more than 520 billion rials.

The deputy in charge of the Joint Armed Forces Logistics said: Apart from implementing the project to build the runway of the Qeshm Airport and undertaking to turn it to an international airport, the Army Air Force will also implement and complete its own special projects, which cost 100 billion rials.

Brigadier General Il 'Ali Purfard, the head of the Army's Jihad and Self-Suffiency Organization, also spoke to reporters and said: That organization endeavors to make the Armed Forces self-sufficient, and it is currently conducting research work on tens of small and large military projects, some of which are close to production stage. He added: The Armed Forces' scientific and technical capability is very high, and the research work is conducted according to the most advanced scientific methods.

Brigadier General Ma'sum-Zadeh, deputy in charge of Jihad and Self-Sufficiency Organization of the Army Ground Force, also briefed reporters about the performance of his unit and said: One of the most important postwar reconstruction projects in which the expert Army Ground Forces participated is clearing 4,130 sq km of areas in which the enemy planted mines in western and southern regions of the country. In that regard he added: So far, more than 1,718,000 various mines and 1.7 million various unexploaded shells have been neutralized or collected from operational fields.

President Meets With New German, Bulgarian Envoys

LD2709123992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with the new German and Bulgarian ambassadors separately this morning to receive their credentials. During the meeting with the new German ambassador, Reinhold Schenk, the president described relations between Iran and Germany as satisfactory and expanding, and he said: Among European countries, we have the most extensive cooperation and relations with Germany. We hope that the trend of cooperation speeds up after carrying out some postponed undertakings by Germany.

Referring to moves by secret hands that intend to mar the progress of cooperation between Iran and Germany, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that closer cooperation and discussions between both countries' officials neutralize the enemies' plots. At the beginning of the meeting, the new German ambassador, submitting his credentials, said: Political cooperation between both countries is inspired by mutual respect, which can be in the service of peace in the world and the region and play a role in reducing potential disputes.

He added: Both countries' economic cooperation has enjoyed a high place since a long time ago and is capable of assuming a deserved role in the reconstruction areas in Iran. Finally, the German ambassador described relations between both countries as stable and strong, saying: Bilateral relations are much too important for terrorist and extremist groups to be able to change them.

According to the same report, during the reception of the new Bulgarian ambassador, Ivan Petkov, Hashemi-Rafsanjani wished success for the Bulgarian ambassador in our country and said: Iran has good memories of cooperation with Bulgaria during the era of the holy defense, and Iran's political will for expanding ties with that country is most serious.

Stressing the need for finding more practical ways of expanding both countries' cooperation in all fields, he expressed the hope that the decisions taken during the eighth session of the joint commission for economic, industrial, and technical cooperation between both countries—held in Tehran sometime ago—will be implemented.

The new Bulgarian ambassador, likwise, said: We regard the Islamic Republic of Iran as an important power in the Persian Gulf and international scene and an economic partner that has priority for Bulgaria. Concerning both countries' relations, he said: Iran and Bulgaria enjoy long-term, traditional, and friendly relations that are full of goodwill, and they would like to expand and develop active cooperation in all fields.

In conclusion, the new Bulgarian ambassador reported about the latest developments and issues in his country that followed the disintegration of the communist system.

Velayati Continues Contacts at UNGA

Meets Britain's Hurd

LD2609094792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on the fringes of the UN General Assembly [UNGA] in New York this morning. According to our London correspondent, that meeting, which lasted one and a half hours, ended minutes ago. Here are the details from our correspondent:

The foreign ministers of the two countries discussed and exchanged views concerning bilateral relations and world and regional developments. About the developments in the Persian Gulf, the Iranian and British foreign ministers stressed the need for cooperation between regional countries for establishing security and stability based on good- neighborly relations; mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each country; noninterference in each others' internal affairs; no change in existing borders; and honoring the existing agreements and understandings.

The foreign ministers agreed to emphasize the need to establish security arrangements and cooperation in the Persian Gulf through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. They also reviewed the situation in Iraq. The two sides stressed the need to respect Iraq's territorial integrity and to prevent its dismemberment. The foreign ministers expressed deep concern over the suppression of the Iraqi people, especially the Shiites and Kurds of that country, and underlined the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. They stressed the need to prevent the continuing suffering of the Iraqi people through the provision of humanitarian assistance.

About the crisis in Bosnia, the foreign ministers pointed out the cooperation of the two countries' representatives in the United Nations and condemned the crimes of Serbia in Bosnia, especially the crime of ethnic cleansing. They stressed honoring the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity of that country and agreed on the need to confront aggression and the restoration of the rights of independent Bosnia-Hercegovina through international circles.

Meets Syrian, French Foreign Ministers

LD2609091192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] During the meeting between Foreign Minister Velayati and Syrian Foreign Minister Al-Shar', held yesterday in the corridors of the UN General Assembly, Velayati stressed Iran's fundamental policy of maintaining good-neighborly relations with Persian Gulf countries. During their meeting the Syrian foreign minister expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his recent trip to Tehran. He said that negotiations over the problem of Abu Musa are constructive and undermine any grounds for alien provocation. Velayati also said that bilateral talks between Iran and the UAE will solve minor problems.

Meanwhile, during Velayati's meeting with French Foreign Minister Dumas, which also took place in New York, Tehran-Paris ties; the latest developments in the Persian Gulf; European unity; and the results of the recent trip of the deputy Foreign Minister of France to Tehran were assessed. During that meeting, the foreign ministers of the two countries emphasized the expansion of economic relations. Velayati and Dumas noted the forthcoming trip of the French commerce minister to Tehran as solid basis for expanding economic ties between Iran and France.

Ayatollah Jannati Delivers Friday Prayers

LD2509191792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Second sermon by Ayatollah Jannati, interim Friday prayer leader for Tehran, in Tehran on 25 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] This week coincides with many occasions. Some are very tragic and revive very sad memories, such as the crash of the helicopter carrying the brave generals of Islam, Fallahiyan and his friends. Next week is the anniversary of the martyrdom of our dear brother, the faithful, earnest, revolutionary martyr Hashemi-Nezhad, and the death of Grand Ayatollah Hakim. [passage omitted]

The most important occasion this week is holy Defense Week, which is a very important issue to us. The memory of the eight years of holy defense should always be alive in Islam's history and should be reviewed and analyzed for present and future generations. A lot should be said about it. Whatever is said is not enough. Eight years of defense is no joke. The reasons why the war started, why the enemy invaded the land of a people who had just staged a revolution, freed themselves of the yoke of the 2,500-year monarchy, created a fledgling, Islamic, revolutionary government, and had no quarrel with anybody....[changes thought] All of a sudden and without warning the enemy attacked. Why? For what reason?

There were preludes as to why the Iraqis were tempted and considered themselves successful in that invasion and were sure of their victory. What preludes? [passage omitted]

I will only say that America was the instigator of the war and aggression. America's objective was obvious: it was to overthrow the Islamic Republic system—that was her prime aim—so puppet governments would come back and America would enter this country through the back door. If that did not happen, they would dismember the country, separate rich Khuzestan from Iran and plunder the wealth of the Muslim people of this country, as they had done for many years. [passage omitted]

They saw that our Army and military forces were not prepared to fight and withstand the enemy, an enemy armed to the teeth and helped by everybody. They, therefore, easily concluded that in a very short space of time they would attain most of their aims and hold on to them forever. [passage omitted]

We benefited from the war. We did not have anything except real benefit from the war. Of course, we had martyrs; we incurred a lot of material damage. But why was there a revolution? Why did Imam Khomeyni create this revolution? To create human beings; to reform the spirit; to bring human beings closer to the aims of creation; and to contact God. And we reached these objectives. Nothing except the war could have brought us to our objectives. This was a blessing from God. We must look at things from a different angle.

We do not have anything to do with water and soil. Our revolution was not for territory; our revolution was not for the riches of this world; our revolution was not for easy-living. But we must defend every inch of our homeland, and we will do so. At the same time, we must safeguard our values and achievements, and we will do so. But these are not our aims, these are our duties. If someone invades any corner of the nation....[changes thought] If anyone wants to suppress any Muslim in any way, we are duty-bound to defend the oppressed. It is our religious duty to stand up against the oppressor. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to those who oppose the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Death to Saddam," "Death to the hypocrites"] [passage omitted]

Yes, we achieved many of our objectives; the war is a source of pride for us. It was a good lesson for our children and future generations. We took back everything that they took from us; we gained fighting experience that could not have been gained except through this war; we learned military strategy; we found the ability to produce spare parts and weapons, which we did not have before. The war brought a great many material and spiritual blessings. [passage omitted]

We must thank those who gave their lives, limbs, and children in this war. We must thank those who did all they could; we are indebted to them for the rest of our lives. We must thank and praise them practically and not just in words in the press and broadcast media. These people must be on the scene; they are the ones who should run the country. They defended the revolution and will do so in the future. Those people who sat in the cool shadow or in the corner of their rooms giving orders, or waited to see who has won and who has lost....[changes thought] Now that the war has finished, they want to inherit the blood of the martyrs. They are not worth anything; they must not have key posts. If they can perform a certain task, let us use that and we will not insult them. We will not eliminate them either. But we value the earthy, Islamic, revolutionary, and fighting forces first and foremost. We must give them the key posts. We value others for their worth. If they are scientists, we value them for that; if they are experts, we value them for that; if they serve, we thank them. But our values must be maintained.

[passage omitted] Let me refer to the Bosnian issue. As so much has been said about this issue—and more should be said about it—there is no need for me to elaborate at length. Briefly, the Bosnian Muslims are in a pitiable state. You have seen war. You have had war refugees. You have accepted Afghan war refugees: women, children, young and old. But the Bosnian Muslims' status is truly worse than that. Before, wherever

they went in their own, brothers, sisters, and co-religionists were there, as if they were in their own homes—all be it with some other difficulties and restrictions. They did not have any problems with language; they did not have any problems from ethical and cultural points of view; they did not have any problems from the services point of view; of course, I mean real problems regarding those issues. But their environment has been surrounded by individuals who neither have their culture nor their religion nor can tolerate them. They are besieged on all sides. Wherever they flee they encounter people who do not accept them. First, they have different local languages; so in many places they do not understand the language. Moreover, their culture is not accepted, their religion is not accepted. In their hearts they are the Bosnian Muslims' enemies. And then they want to look after them. So they really have a problem.

We were willing and asked some friends to make a study and asked for some of the refugees—especially orphans and those children whose mothers and fathers cannot look after them—to be brought here. Many individuals also have written to us saying we are ready to nurse such children. We have called for expert study for some of them to be brought here, although meanwhile I have said that it is not to their benefit to be away from their own homeland, because that may be just what the enemy wants: that they should go somewhere where their homeland's memories do not reach them and they gradually forget them; that is not advisable. But at the same time, countries near and far have taken some of them. We also are able to, and must accept them, especially so we can give them an Islamic education. May God reward you all, because you have had a proper presence in this issue.

Assistance to Bosnian Muslims must continue. We said in an announcement that bank donation forms should be sent to the secretariat of the logistic headquarters of the tyrannized in Bosnia-Hercegovina—which has been set up in the Guardians Council. May God reward and save those brethren and sisters of ours from tyrants.

Our last issue is the recent mischief making by the Americans regarding Abu Musa Island. In this short opportunity—our time is nearly up—I tell you that we have no quarrel with our neighbors. They are Muslims; we also are Muslims. We speak of Islamic unity here; we have a Unity Week, and ours is not just the unity of the Shiites and Sunnis; it is the unity of Shiites and Shiites, the unity of Sunnis and Sunnis. It is the unity of the world of Islam—let alone unity with our own neighbors. With all our cry of unity we cannot do anything that will disrupt unity; therefore, we have always observed the principles of unity and Muslim brotherhood and the principles of neighborliness and will do so. We have no quarrel with them. The issue is that there are enemies who are plotting together to create sedition, to create trouble. And now the Americans are acting behind the scenes. Some states—I do not know what epithet to use for them; if I call them weak it is too little, and if I call them corrupt it does not do them full justice—have used such states as Iraq, Egypt, and Algeria, like pawns, to back the issue. Well, since they are Arabs and our neighbors are also Arabs, they are contacting them and putting them up to confront us so they can create trouble and muddy the waters. Those Arab states are carrying out their mission. But we have no quarrel with anyone. We do not want to fight anyone. We are acting in those islands as we have been acting for the last 20 years. We will act the same way and are not prepared to have any confrontation with anybody. But it goes without saying that if it comes to anyone trying to trample on any rights and violate Muslims' rights none of us can tolerate tyranny and aggression. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

America must realize that if we were afraid of America we would have lost the war. Just as our people were not afraid at that time—and the leadership of the revolution was not afraid of America—they are not afraid now either. We are not the only ones not to be afraid of America; fear of America has left the heart of the world. Many other states also have realized that America is nothing but a scarecrow that is used to frighten some from afar. Otherwise, there is nothing to fear. They are rotten from within. Through the people's resistance, steadfastness, and reliance on God almighty, they can overcome America. Just as Imam Khomeyni said, America cannot do a damn thing either; therefore, we have no worries on that score either. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Afghan President Arrives for Visit 26 Sep

BK2609091492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] A warm welcome was accorded to the Afghan president, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, on his arrival in Islamabad this morning on a two-day state visit to Pakistan. His 13-member entourage includes four ministers and the minister of state for foreign affairs. The distinguished guest was received at the airport by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. As the Afghan president alighted from his plane, a 21-gun salute was boomed. The distinguished guest took salute from a guard of honor presented by a contingent from the three services. Also present to welcome the distinguished guest were the chairman of the Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad; federal ministers; deputy chairperson of the Senate; deputy speaker of the National Assembly; elected representatives; and diplomats based at Islamabad. A large number of Afghans residing in Pakistan also greeted their president.

Says Talks 'Fruitful'

BK2709083092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] The Afghan president, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, was given a hearty send-off when he left

Islamabad for Tehran this morning at the end of his two-day official visit to Pakistan. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif bade farewell to the distinguished guest. Also present to see off the Afghan president at the airport was the speaker of National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; federal ministers; elected representatives; and diplomats. The farewell ceremony included a guard of honor by a contingent of three services and a 21-gun salute.

Earlier, the Afghan president told a news conference in Islamabad that his talks with Pakistani leaders were fruitful and expressed the hope that these would lead to still closer relations between the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan. On Kashmir, the Afghan president reaffirmed his country's support for the implementation of resolution of the United Nations. He hoped that the negotiations initiated by the Pakistan Government and other activities in this regard will bear fruit. Professor Rabbani also welcomed Pakistan's assurance not to allow its territory to be used against the Islamic government of Afghanistan.

Comments on Kashmir, Bosnia; Departs

BK2709150892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Afghanistan has called for a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions. The call was made by the president of the Islamic state of Afghanistan, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, while addressing a news conference in Islamabad today. Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani said his country condemns oppression anywhere in the world, including Kashmir and Bosnia-Hercegovina. He urged the world community to save Bosnian Muslims from Serbian oppression and barbarism. The Afghan president described his talks with Pakistani leaders as fruitful and said his visit will further strengthen existing good relations between the two Islamic countries. He appreciated the unforgettable assistance extended by Pakistan to the Afghan people during their jehad against foreign occupation and Hijrat [exodus].

To another question, Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani said the government in Kabul was in full control of the situation. All armed groups have been withdrawn from the capital and efforts are underway to restore peace and launch reconstruction program in the country. The Afghan president said a decisionmaking council would be constituted by winter this year in accordance with the Peshawar accord. Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, who relinquishes the office of the president on the 27th of next month, said an 18-member commission has been constituted to set up the decision-making council.

The Afghan president was given a hearty send off when he left Islamabad for Tehran at the end of his first official visit to Pakistan. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, saw him off at the airport. [passage ommitted]

Pilot Accuses Former Army Chief of Killing Haq

BK2809100892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] A former pilot of the Pakistan Air Force has accused the former chief of Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, and the Interservices Intelligence of being responsible for the air crash that killed the former president, Gen. Ziaul Haq, in August 1988.

In a statement before the commission that has been set up to inquire into the air crash, the former pilot, Akram Awan, said the killing of Gen. Zia is linked with the smuggling of arms by top army and intelligence officials to neighboring countries. Our Islamabad correspondent Suresh Chopra reports that Gen. Beg has already denied that he had any hand in the killing of Gen. Ziaul Haq.

Sri Lanka

Scores Reported Dead in Army-Guerrilla Clashes

Guerrillas Storm Army Line

BK2609133292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0924 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Colombo, Sept 26 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas killed 26 government soldiers and lost at least 19 of their own men in a day of fierce battles in Sri Lanka's embattled northeast, a military spokesman here said Saturday.

Dozens of heavily-armed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas stormed a well-fortified army bunker line in northern Pooneryn Friday killing 18 soldiers including an officer and wounding 19 others, the spokesman said.

"A large number of Tigers mounted a major attack on the forward defences of Pooneryn army camp. Troops backed by naval gun fire and air retaliated and regained their positions in Pooneryn," the spokesman said.

"Troops recovered the body of one (LTTE) terrorist along with an automatic weapon. At least 10 terrorists were confirmed killed along with the LTTE military leader for (neighbouring) Mannar," the spokesman said.

He said that a rebel landmine blew up a tracked vehicle carrying army reinforcements to the area, killing five more troopers including an officer and injuring 12 others.

Military sources said that fleeing Tiger guerrillas had removed large numbers of weapons, ammunition and radio communications equipment from the Pooneryn bunkers. Local press reports put LTTE casualties at 56 dead.

A military statement said troops repulsed an attack on a separate army bunker position at Pooneryn Friday. It said a soldier was killed and three others were wounded in the strike while LTTE casualties were not known.

Pooneryn, which is a promontory south of the LTTE's main stronghold of Jaffna peninsula, was under Tiger control before the military captured it last year. However rebels have frequently infiltrated army defences in the area.

Security forces shot dead at least nine LTTE activists and lost two more of their own men in two separate clashes in eastern Batticaloa district Friday, the spokesman said.

The latest army deaths raised to 93 the number of security personnel killed so far in September and to some 651 the number of troops killed since LTTE guerrillas stepped up attacks on military targets from April this year.

The LTTE is seeking to carve out a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamil community which is concentrated in the region. Thousands have died in the LTTE-led independence campaign.

Army Ambushes 'Terrorist' Vehicles

BK2709112892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Twenty LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have been killed by the security forces in fierce fighting in the eastern Batticaloa District. Large quantities of arms and ammunition have also been seized. The security forces ambushed two tractors transporting a load of food items by LTTE terrorists at Rugan in the Batticaloa District killing six terrorists. Troops also ambushed a terrorist convoy at (Kilapallai), also in Batticaloa District, on a tipoff. In the ensuing battle, 10 terrorists were killed and many wounded. In another incident, the security forces carried out a raid on a terrorist base at Ampilanturai killing four terrorists.

Premadasa Returns After Visit to Pakistan, Nepal

BK2609133192 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Madame Hema Premadasa arrived at the Katunayake International Airport last night. The president returned to the island after a successful tour of Pakistan and Nepal in his capacity as the chairman of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. Foreign Secretary Bernard Tillakaratne and Presidential Adviser on International Affairs Bradman Weerakoon arrived with the president. Chief Sanghanayake [head priest of Buddhist temple] of India, the venerable Hadigalle Panya Tissanayaka Thera and other members of the mahasangha [Buddhist clergy] chanted (septiruta) at the airport to invoke blessings on the president. Several ministers and MP's [members of parliament], and several high officials were present at the aiport to welcome the president and his party.

Earlier, in the day, the president, speaking at an official luncheon in Kathmandu, stressed the need to deal effectively with the pressing social and economic problems of the people. If not, he said, the very process of democracy will be in danger. Each member state of SAARC should address these fundamental changes according to its own national policies. SAARC has directly engaged certain core areas of direct concern to the people. The president said that SAARC countries were in the process of designing the South Asian Development Fund. This fund could benefit from an infusion of resources from other organizations and countries. We need to supplement our own limited means for worthwhile regional programs. There were hopeful signs of cooperation from international organizations and countries. The president pointed out that SAARC should not isolate itself from other regions of global development. He recalled that it was at the summit in Kathmandu that SAARC had called for greater people-to-people exchanges. This call has been heeded. He said he had visited Nepal amid great global changes. These changes are not to be considered abstract. They affect the South Asian region and the lives of its people very deeply. President Premadasa said that in Sri Lanka the belief that the poor need to be themselves engaged in the development process prevails. He was referring to the Janasaviya [welfare] program. In Sri Lanka, the strength of the people's productive capacity, or Janasaviya as we call it, is being harnessed for economic growth. The president said throughout Sri Lanka, Nepal is respected as hallowed land which gave birth to the great teacher Gautama Buddha. His noble message had brought solace to the world for over 2,000 years. It has sustained the people of Sri Lanka throughout their history. The president added that his government was particularly interested in developing cooperation with the government of Nepal. This cooperation would focus, among other things, on the birth place of the Buddha in Lumpini and will help the thousands of pilgrims who wish to visit the sacred site. The prime minister of Nepal, Girija Prasad Koirala, was present on the occasion.

Premadasa on SAARC, Fighting Poverty

BK2809101392 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0631 GMT 28 Sep 92

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sep 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—"SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] can be a harmonising forum to bring about understanding among member countries. That goodwill, I am sure, will eventually help to resolve even bilateral issues," said President Ranasinghe Premadasa answering questions at a press conference in Islamabad before his departure from Pakistan. He said: "You cannot resolve conflicts through the process of controversy. You have to have

consultations to arrive at compromises, so that finally you will be able to gain consensus. That is the democratic way."

Sri Lanka's president was replying to a question from a pressman who asked: "Mr. President, what political future is there for SAARC in view of the continuous differences between its members, particularly between a major partner and its smaller neighbours?" The president replied: "Differences shall prevail as long as the world exists. There has been no period in history when there have been no differences and controversies. Sometimes these differences may help to build up understanding. Also we should look at these differences with the aim of resolving them through a process of consultation, compromise, and consensus rather than confrontation.

"So I see a bright future for SAARC if we make use of our cooperation to provide for our people. What we should do is deliberate on matters where we can reach consensus, and implement such programs for the common benefit of the countries of our region. Thereby we can build understanding and goodwill among our countries. This will help resolve any outstanding differences and outstanding problems also.

"You know fear and suspicion bring about controversies and conflicts. Now, how are we going to meet such situations? It is by drawing closer together, exchanging views, understanding each in its correct perspective. Then we can discuss matters without fear or suspicion. So for that purpose SAARC will be a very useful forum. But of course, under the SAARC constitution we cannot discuss bilateral problems and issues. But it is more important to come to some understanding about our own concerns and remove from our minds any misconceptions or misunderstandings as such. Therefore, in that context SAARC will be useful to resolve bilateral problems.

"Politics is the art of the possible. Not that SAARC is going to consider bilateral problems, but what I am saying is that SAARC can be a harmonising forum to bring about some understanding of the genuineness of our concerns and try to resolve the conflicts. You cannot resolve conflicts through the process of controversy. You have to have consultations to arrive at compromises, so that finally you will be able to gain consensus. That is the democratic way".

President Premadasa also answered questions on SAARC-related issues.

On the summit held in Male:

"I see the Male summit as a watershed in the historical evolution of SAARC. It consolidated the structures for cooperation. Further, it decided that we must move into core areas of economic cooperation. It also decided that SAARC should go beyond the limits of intergovernmental cooperation to encompass media, parliamentarians, professionals, artists etc."

The Colombo summit:

"At the Colombo summit, the heads of state or government took the following concrete decisions in moving SAARC into core areas of economic cooperation. They are (1) poverty alleviation, (2) food security, (3) trade cooperation, and (4) mobilising global surpluses for South Asian development.

"All governments of SAARC gave high priority to poverty alleviation. This led to the establishment of an independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation."

On poverty issues:

"SAARC countries have reached a consensus on poverty issues.

"The compulsion for addressing the poverty question on a priority basis was that half a billion people in the SAARC countries were being marginalised as (so-called) poor. This is in fact one-tenth of the world population. To my mind they are not 'poor.'

"Culture and history have conferred a great deal of wisdom, creativity, and resilience on the people of South Asia. The poor are no exception. In this sense, the poor are also rich. I see 'people' as South Asia's greatest asset. "By transforming their creativity and labour into a productive force, we can double our per capita income over the next ten years. I believe that growth, human dignity, and equity are attainable in one and the same development process. "Apart from people being South Asia's greatest asset, we are also well-endowed with: "(a) natural resources and a common ecosystem, water resources, including the untapped resources from the ocean.

"Renewable energy resources, including solar power and biodiversity, for life support

"(b) an age-old knowledge system and modern technology. This means South Asia has a wide range of technological choices, i.e. a large stock of traditional knowledge and craft skills as well as the ability to readily absorb modern knowledge."

Sri Lanka's experience in poverty alleviation:

"Let me share with you the Lankan experience. We liberalised our economy in 1977. It not only took us ten years but a systemic crisis which threatened the very foundation of our democratic structures, to compel us to think innovatively on poverty.

"We put the Janasaviya programme in place in 1989. Janasaviya means 'the people's strength' or the people's creativity. It is the core programme of the government.

"We gave the 'so-called' poor nutrition support and brought them into the mainstream of development by giving them access to credit. Through their organisations they are now able to assert their right to resources to which they are entitled. [no end quote marks as received]

Position in South Asia:

"South Asia has over the past decade sustained a growth rate of 3.1 per cent. This is a significant achievement in an adverse global environment where developed economies have shown only marginal growth rates.

"At low levels of income it has been possible to achieve high levels of human development. South Asia is progressing to be a food surplus region with further potential for increased food production. With the introduction of new technologies, yields in selected food crops increased five-fold. This has substantially reduced the food import dependency rations."